

No 62,160

MONDAY JUNE 10 1985

23p

THE TIMES 1785-1985 Tomorrow

Judgement of history John Bodkin Adams: trial judge Lord Devlin remembers

Racing silks Under starter's orders for Ascot fashion

Epic voyage Libby Purves on her round the world pen-pal

Rugby lesson How the England tour fell short of all Black standards

Portfolio Saturday's £20,000 weekly prize in the Times Portfolio competition was shared between five readers.

Watchdog plan for teachers Proposals for a general teaching council, similar to the General Medical Council, which would have powers to set a code of practice, strike teachers off and set entry qualifications, are being discussed by teacher organizations to improve standards and enhance the profession's status.

Flannery picked Mr Martin Flannery, MP, aged 67, has been re-elected as Labour candidate for Sheffield Hillsborough, easily beating off a challenge from a fellow left-winger, Mr Clive Betts, aged 35, Sheffield City Council housing chairman.

Captain held The master of a German freighter involved in an incident in which the ferry Norland was held, is being held by the Dutch on suspicion of drunkenness, carelessness and endangering life at sea.

NUR warning A fresh trial of strength between British Rail and the railway unions was predicted yesterday by Mr Jimmy Knapp, general secretary of the NUR.

Hindley fight Myra Hindley, the moorland murderer, is to take her claim for release from jail to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

Secret dialogue Britain and Albania are holding secret talks to resolve a 39-year-old wrangle over seized gold bullion and destroyed Royal Navy warships.

Emburey picked England's selectors have included John Emburey in preference to Phil Edmunds in the 12 for the first Test against Australia at Headingley on Thursday.

England beaten England lost the second successive match of their Mexican tour last night, when they were beaten 1-0 by the host nation.

Leader page 11 Letters: On welfare review, from Ms S. McKechie; Stansted airport, from Mr W. C. Woodruff, and others

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Peres forces SLA to release kidnapped colonel

The stakes in the poker game of hostages were raised yesterday as the Israeli-backed militia in south Lebanon seized the French colonel sent by the UN force to try to secure the release of 21 Finnish soldiers kidnapped last Friday.

On Saturday four of the Finns at Qantara were released "as a goodwill gesture" but one of them, their commander, Colonel Venni Halaka, had been beaten up.

The 11 men are now in a classroom at the Amal-controlled Jabal Amel Technical College in Tyre. It is on the ground floor and the window is open. They are very lightly guarded and provided with food, water and cigarettes.

Mr Daoud Daoud, the Amal leader in Tyre, said he would not release the men even if Unifil asked. "If we released them, then we too could seize



General Lahd, the SLA commander, refusing to release the Unifil troops held as hostages.

McGuigan victory unites Ireland

Much of Ireland was affected by a celebratory hangover which crossed geographical borders and religious denominations yesterday.

The clearest Hibernian head around belonged to the man responsible for the phenomenon, Barry McGuigan who, on Saturday night, became the new featherweight champion of the world and gave a new impetus to the struggle to reconcile Ireland's divided communities.

At some stage in the morning a large part of his mother's house burned down during a party - "everyone was drinking through the night", the champion confessed. But the loss did not seem too great, though the fire had started in a video recorder taping his victory, leaving the McGuigan family without a record of the fight.

McGuigan's victory has made him more than a sportsman on both sides of the border. Minutes after the 15-round points win he received a congratulatory phone call from Dr Garret FitzGerald, the Irish Prime Minister, who told him: "You are making an enormous contribution to the cause of reconciliation in Ireland."

Mr Douglas Creed, the Irish sports minister, who was ringside at the fight, said: "If there was a vacancy, Barry could become president of Ireland tomorrow if he wanted to."

A telegram from Mr Douglas Hurd, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said: "The whole community in Northern Ireland unites in saluting your magnificent achievement in winning the world title."

Reagan to stick by limits of Salt 2

President Reagan has decided to continue broad observance of the six-year-old Salt 2 arms treaty with the Soviet Union.

The resolution also said the US should respond to any specific Soviet violations, without actually violating the strict letter of the pact.

The decision is broadly in line with the position of Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, who argued forcibly for strict compliance.

Some top Pentagon figures have argued that because of the speed of the Soviet build-up it would be in the interest of the US to seek continuation of Salt 2.

The European allies have urged Mr Reagan to continue observing the treaty's limits.

Saudi Arabia's earnings from oil are now running at an annual rate of \$39 billion compared with \$107 billion in 1983.

Honda deal to assemble at Cowley

A broad-based extension of the collaboration deal between BL's Austin Rover and Honda of Japan will be announced within the next few weeks.

The new deal, which will continue at least until the end of the decade, involves a significant package of measures including continuing joint development of new cars and exchange of technology.

It was also made clear that Honda was prepared to supply Austin Rover with engines for a Metro replacement in a few years, but Mr Ikemi said that Austin Rover had not sought such an arrangement.

An engine deal is believed to be favoured by the government as a way of cutting £250 million from BL's proposed £1.8 billion investment plan in the run-up to privatisation.

The tie-up with BL, regarded by Honda as its sole European collaborative car venture, will, however, not involve the Japanese in acquiring an equity stake in BL.

Date of reshuffle not set, says Thatcher

The Prime Minister said yesterday that she did not know which ministers would be involved in the Cabinet reshuffle she plans to make in the approaching parliamentary recess, nor how extensive the changes would be.

She added that whether the tax burden would be lower by the next election than when the Conservatives came to office in 1979 would depend on growth in the economy, and partly on world growth rates.

Recalling the most acute of sterling's recent crises, she described how she heard a radio report, on January 13, that the Government did not care about the pound going down.

In the course of the interview, with Mr David Frost, Mrs Thatcher was asked what had been the Government's mistakes so far. She replied: "I think it would have been better had we been able to hold public expenditure down more than we have, but against the background of recession and the

Belgrano clash, page 2

Right-wing fans 'fraternized' in Brussels

English and Italian soccer supporters wearing badges of extreme right wing groups were seen fraternizing and drinking together in Brussels cafes before the riot at the Heysel stadium 10 days ago, in which 38 people died.

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Oil discounts by Iran upset Opec

A new wave of oil price discounts of up to \$4 (£3.14) a barrel is threatening the unity of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) in its 25th anniversary year.

Several Gulf producers are finding that by abiding by past Opec agreements their revenues are falling.

Saudi Arabia's earnings from oil are now running at an annual rate of \$39 billion compared with \$107 billion in 1983.

Advertisement for UNICEF featuring a syringe and the text 'Africa's drug problem' and 'Every year at least 700,000 African children die from lack of life-saving drugs.'

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Rail union sees political motive behind BR demands

By Rupert Morris

A fresh trial of strength between British Rail and the railway unions was predicted yesterday by Mr Jimmy Knapp, general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen.

He accused British Rail of being politically motivated in sending two letters in one week to rail union leaders. The first letter declared that British Rail would no longer recognize the 1976 closed shop agreement, and the second gave the NUR and the train drivers' union, ASLEF, seven days in which to find £200,000 compensation for a one-day strike called in January.

"Attitudes will get harder," Mr Knapp said. If British Rail had wanted to discuss the closed shop in the light of recent legislation, it could have suggested a meeting. To send such a strongly worded letter "out of the blue" was "not the best way to conduct industrial relations".

As for the £200,000 compensation claim for a strike on January 17 in South Yorkshire and the East Midlands, Mr Knapp denied British Rail's assertion that it was a strike in defence of two members who had been "victimized" for refusing to handle coal. He said there would be no further progress on productivity talks while the threat of legal action hung over the unions.

Frost and Thatcher in Belgrano clash

By Julian Haviland Political Editor

The Prime Minister yesterday demonstrated unshaken conviction that she and her Cabinet colleagues were right to order the sinking of the General Belgrano, the Argentine cruiser, in 1982, during the Falklands campaign.

She dismissed the accusation that Parliament and the public were misled, claimed the Government had given as many facts as it could, and said that "no particular peace proposals" had been reached by the Government when the sinking was ordered.

The circumstances of the sinking occupied more than a third of Mrs Thatcher's 50-minute interview on TV-am with a persistent and fully-briefed Mr David Frost, with whom she showed no annoyance, but some impatience.

She was "utterly amazed" that Mr Frost and others should make a "pernickety" point about "one of the most brilliant battles ever fought, 8,000 miles away".

"Everyone accepts that the Belgrano had to be sunk, at least I hope they do," Mrs Thatcher said. "I would take the same decision again."

She became animated when asked why she had incorrectly told Mrs Diana Gould, on a controversial television phone-in during the 1983 general election campaign, that the Belgrano was not sailing away from the Falklands when sunk. Did Mr Frost think she spent her days prowling around the pigeon-holes of the Ministry of Defence? If so he must be "boonkers".

After the interview, Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Linlithgow, said Mrs Thatcher had lied in saying that peace proposals had not been received through the Peruvian government.



Period of calm: Mrs Thatcher and David Frost before the Belgrano issue surfaced.

'Everyone accepts cruiser had to be sunk'

FROST: Do you think that in terms of the credibility of the Government, and so on, the stonewall, the cover-up, or whatever you call it, over the Belgrano was in retrospect, a mistake?

THATCHER: No, I do not think it is a mistake. We had a very, very long and detailed debate. Everyone accepts that the Belgrano had to be sunk. At least, I hope they do. Do you know what the charge against me is? That the Belgrano was discovered, seen first, the day before we admitted we had seen it, and that when John Nott said in the House that it was torpedoed, he said it had been detected earlier that day. In fact, it was seen the day before.

FROST: It was seen the day before, but it didn't zig-zag. But ships do change direction. That ship did change direction. On that day, when the Government said it changed direction many times, it only changed direction once to go back home and a 10-degree difference to get closer to Argentina.

THATCHER: A ship is torpedoed on the basis that if wherever she is she can get back to sink your ships in discoverable ships on the high seas and keep track of them the entire time. You can lose them. You can lose them. I would rather have been under the attack I was for the Belgrano than under the attack I might have been under for putting Hermes or Invincible in danger, and if ever you think that governments have to reveal every single thing about ships' movements, we do not. And if I were tackling...

FROST: No, but I mean, the reason people get... in charge of a war again, I would take the same decision again.

THATCHER: But would you still, I mean, I mean, when you told Diana Gould [a questioner on a controversial television phone-

Intake of medical students may be cut

By Nicholas Timmins Social Services Correspondent

The Government is considering a cut of up to 200 or about 5 per cent in medical student intake in September 1986 or 1987.

Health ministers have already taken steps to control the number of overseas doctors and are expected to propose a compulsory retirement age of 70 for GPs in this summer's Green Paper on family doctor services. A cut in student numbers would be the third step to ensure that Britain does not have too many doctors by the end of the century.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Health, is understood to favour a cut to the 1979 level of about 3,850. This September's planning intake is 4,080.

Civil Servants in the Department of Health, however, are understood to oppose the move, being unconvinced that the UK is heading for an oversupply of doctors.

The options include shutting a complete medical school, with St Andrews or Dundee the prime candidates, combining some of London's 13 medical schools or imposing reductions across the board.

St Andrews, with an intake of about 80 students a year, teaches only the early part of the course, sending its students to Manchester for clinical training. Closing it would affect both St Andrews and Manchester, and closing either it or the relatively small school at Dundee, with 115 intake, would cause the Conservatives further electoral trouble in Scotland.

Moreover, a 5 per cent cut in numbers does not mean a five per cent cut in staff, as all the subjects have still to be taught.

Closing an individual school is a more attractive option, but politically more troublesome.

Coal board plans Welsh pit closures

From Tim Jones Cardiff

Mining unions in South Wales will be told today that the National Coal Board would like to close between four and six pits as soon as possible, to begin the long process of moving Britain's largest loss-making coal area towards profitability.

More than 2,000 jobs could go if the proposals, subject to the review procedure agreed with the pit deputies' union Nacods, are carried out.

The programme could cut the number of pits in the coalfield from 27 to 21, in an effort to reduce the £22 million loss made in the last financial year before the strike.

But, under terms agreed with the board before the strike, no miner will be made redundant. More than 1,000 of the 19,500 workforce in South Wales have already applied for voluntary redundancy, amounting in some cases to payments of more than £30,000.

One of the most emotive issues could be the future of Maerdy colliery, the last pit in the Rhondda valley, which once had 54 mines.

During the miners' strike Maerdy became a byword for solidarity, and was so confident in its community that the local miners' lodge did not bother to place pickets outside the gates.

Strike may last, NUT chief says

The general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, Mr Fred Jarvis, said yesterday that the pay strike would continue into next term if necessary.

He said: "One of the things one wants to do now is to increase pressure on backbenchers in Parliament in order that they in turn would create more pressure on the Government. I think there are signs of that beginning to happen."

"People have to accept if there is no resolution this term, action will go on next term."

Speaking on Channel 4's current affairs programme *Face the Press*, Mr Jarvis said the strike was against the Government and not the local education authorities.

He said: "They cannot negotiate freely with us. The real issue is the Government. Therefore, our pressure has to be directed against the Government."

He dismissed the suggestions that teachers should go to arbitration, maintaining there was no point as the Government had already said it would meet no extra cash available to meet an arbitration award.

Mr Jarvis said that if the Government was serious about its desire to improve school standards, it should increase spending on education. The teachers' grievance was "about the recognition of professionalism and the fact that dedication doesn't pay the bills."

Hindley takes case to Europe

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Myra Hindley, the moors murderers, is to take her bid for release from jail to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

She has instructed lawyers to claim that she has suffered "inhuman and degrading treatment" by the decision two weeks ago to keep her in jail for at least another five years without a review.

Mr Leon Brittan, Home Secretary, announced that he had accepted the Parole Board's recommendation that she should not be freed on licence. She has so far served 19 years.

Hindley, aged 42, was jailed in 1966 after being convicted with Ian Brady of murdering two children. She was also convicted of being an accomplice in the murder of a third child. All the bodies were found in shallow graves on the Pennine moors.

Legal opinion is that the Government would be forced to act on the finding of the European court if it ruled that Hindley should be reconsidered for parole.

Another claim expected to be made on Hindley's behalf is that the Parole Board's decision was influenced by a campaign by certain newspapers rather than by whether she was any longer a risk to society.

Fisher Meredith, her solicitors, who specialise in civil liberty law, have agreed to waive fees in her case.

One important factor influencing the new move is a recommendation by the local review committee of the Parole Board that Hindley was ready for release from Cookham Wood jail, in Kent. But the board did not agree.

Hindley's supporters have noted Mr Brittan's warning when he announced that he had accepted the board's recommendation that she should be reconsidered in 10 years' time.

Mr Brittan said: "I would repeat that the review then of these cases does not mean either that the periods of detention necessary to meet the requirements of retribution and deterrence will have been completed or that the crucial question is whether Hindley has been deterred from killing again. She is said by those in favour of her release to be a devout Roman Catholic, and has obtained an honours degree from the Open University.

India may buy task force ship

India is again considering buying the 28,500-tonne carrier, Hermes, flagship to the task force during the Falklands campaign in 1982. The Indian High Commission in London said last night that the ship is one of several being considered for the Indian navy.

The Hermes was built in Barrow in Furness in 1944 and is now the only large warship in reserve. If she is not sold she could be scrapped or kept in reserve. The Ministry of Defence said that no decision has been taken.

The trial of eight serving or former members of the Armed Forces charged with espionage is due to start at the Central Criminal Court today after five weeks of legal argument which led to the case being postponed in April (Our Crime Reporter writes).

The men, who served with a signals unit in Cyprus, have pleaded not guilty to 31 breaches of the Official Secrets Act, alleged to have occurred between February 1982 and February 1984.

Pessimism over outcome of talks on Ulster

Officials on both sides of the border are increasingly contemplating the prospect of the present round of Anglo-Irish talks ending in failure. Both the British and Irish governments seem to be preparing for the negotiations to end without significant progress towards breaking the political deadlock in Northern Ireland.

Mr Peter Barry, Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs, described the talks as "extremely difficult" after a meeting last month with Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary. Both Mr Barry and the Irish Prime Minister, Dr Garret FitzGerald, have rated the prospects of success as, at best, 50-50.

An expected meeting between Dr FitzGerald and Sir Geoffrey at ceremonies marking the accession of Spain and Portugal to the EEC this week is widely seen as an attempt to inject new impetus into talks which many in London, Dublin and Belfast believe are petering out.

In the Irish Republic there is growing doubt about the usefulness of talks, while officials are discussing privately how the government should handle a breakdown, particularly as there is concern at the political damage Dr FitzGerald will face at home if the talks fail.

In Northern Ireland members of the Social Democratic and Labour Party privately admit they believe the talks are going nowhere, while the Government is planning its position in the event of failure.

British ministers will put forward their own ideas on possible ways of making progress within Northern Ireland but with little prospect of the deadlock being broken. In the event of the talks' failure, the Government favours outlining both what it was prepared to offer the local parties and the effort it made to reach agreement with Dublin.

A Royal Ulster Constabulary officer is in a stable condition after being shot in the chest by terrorists early yesterday, as he was on patrol outside a bar in Irvinestown, Co Fermanagh.

The Provisional IRA admitted they made a mistake when they carried out a punishment kneecapping of a man in his 20s in the Creggan estate, Londonderry on Saturday.

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Labour chief gives policy priority

By Our Political Editor

Mr Larry Whitty, the new general secretary of the Labour Party, who takes over today from Mr James Mortimer, made it plain yesterday that he believes Labour's professional organization and its policy presentation need to be improved.

He said that a large chunk of his job as the party's chief executive and his primary task in the next few months was to make sure the head office worked. After that there would be other tasks such as policy development.

The two-fold job would be to "refine and update policy" and to project it, and the party had fallen down rather badly on the projection side in recent years.

Mr Whitty, aged 41, is a former Civil Servant and trade union officer. He worked for Mr Tony Benn when Mr Benn was Minister for Technology, and for the past 10 years he has been head of research at the General Municipal, Boilermakers and Allied Trade Union.

In an interview yesterday on BBC radio he said that a lot of changes were needed. Many criticisms of Labour Party staff in the regions and at the London headquarters were unjustified, but some of them were justified.

Singer's gift

Bruce Springsteen, the rock singer, has given £16,000 to British miners' wives after his concert in Newcastle upon Tyne. Reluctant hero, page 9

Complaint against The Times is upheld

After reviving in a book review 12-year-old criticisms of a theatrical producer, *The Times* should have published his letter replying to them, the Press Council said today.

The council upheld a complaint by Mr Peter Cotes that an article contained a significant inaccuracy which the newspaper declined to correct. In a review of *Empty Seats*, the autobiography of producer, Mr Michael White, the reviewer, Mr Irving Wardle, mentioned *The Mousetrap Man*, a book by another impresario, Mr Peter Saunders. He said that in two superfluous readable pages Mr Saunders settled accounts with Mr Cotes for his truncated rehearsals and vast subsequent earnings from the West End's longest runner.

Mr Cotes wrote in a letter for publication that "one-sided versions of a dispute should never be accepted and published as fact unless thoroughly checked. The events described were fictitious and he had always denied them. He was not prepared for anyone to write from hearsay or second-hand a suggestion that he had lamentably failed in his obligations."

The deputy editor, Mr Colin Webb, replied that in the view of the arts editor there seemed no reason why Mr Wardle should not refer to material already published.

Mr Cotes told the Press Council he had protested at lies and half-truths in *The Mousetrap Man* and that his rebuttals were included in another book, *The Mystery of Agatha Christie*.

Mr Webb said a brief letter making those two points would certainly have been considered for publication, but that as means and time had then passed since publication it was really too late. He told the council that Mr Cotes's letter did not make it clear what the substance of his complaint was.

The Press Council have rejected a complaint that it was improper of *The Sunday Times* to disclose the identity and whereabouts of an IRA bombing suspect, Ms Evelyn Glenholmes, before she could be arrested.

The council said the newspaper took reasonable steps to ensure that the appropriate authorities in Britain and Ireland knew that it was proposing to run the story.

Six Ethiopians seek asylum

Six Ethiopian stowaways have arrived in Londonderry by sea and have asked for political asylum, the Home Office said yesterday.

The six have been allowed to remain on board the vessel, *Elise Schulte*, as Mr John Hume, the Social Democratic and Labour Party leader, is expected to take up their case with the Government.

Aitken petition

Mrs Elizabeth Aitken, aged 48, former wife of the actor Richard Harris and Rex Harrison, has filed a petition for divorce against her third husband, Mr Peter Aitken, a grandson of Lord Beverbrook and a Canadian investment banker. The case is uncontested.

Woman wins over jargon jungle

One woman's war against the impenetrable jargon used in official forms is to be nationally recognized this week. Dr in the plain English she loves, Ms Christie Maher has won the prize for her fight against gobblede-gook.

She will receive the 1985 Rosemary Delbridge Memorial Trophy, awarded annually for campaigning which influenced Parliament or government to act for the welfare of the community, within months of the introduction of a simpler tax return form which she played a big part in rewriting.

Ms Maher, aged 47, has battled for years. English since as a 14-year-old she learned to read and write at night classes in Liverpool. Family poverty had prevented her from attending school regularly.

She gained bitter experience of the impenetrable language beloved of bureaucrats when she worked in insurance, marketing and public relations.

Her campaign began in earnest in the late 1970s when as the National Consumer Council's representative in the North-west, she opened the Seiffert Arms Market. The public flocked in with countless examples of gobblede-gook for translation.

"The DHSS were the worst offenders, especially in their Supplementary Benefit No 1 form, which was essentially changed as a result of our campaign," she said yesterday.

The unemployed and underprivileged were not the only groups in need of help. She said: "Students came in for help with their grant forms and even teachers asked us to decipher the syllabuses."

Six years ago Ms Maher became the co-founder and co-organizer of the Plain English Campaign, which continued the crusade.

Her favourite example of gobblede-gook was in the revised version of the Hammer-smith and Fulham Borough Council's district plan, which had been changed in an attempt at greater clarity.

"They tried to improve the original by replacing the word 'bedrooms' with 'localized capacity deficiency'. That still makes me laugh," she said.

Some gobblede-gook was dangerous, such as instructions on an imported DIY high chair kit which spoke of "screening screws until half past". Ms Maher explained: "What they meant was 'screw it half in'. But the result could have been a collapsing high chair and a dead baby."

Examples of the changes achieved in official nomenclature will be on display on August 7 to the public at an exhibition at the Treasury.

Co-winner of this year's Rosemary Delbridge, the National Consumer Council's first Parliamentary Officer, is Mr David Tench, the Consumer Association's legal adviser.

Girl aged 11 given heart transplant

An Italian girl has been given a transplant operation involving the heart of a boy aged 11, killed hours earlier in a car accident.

Heart surgeons at Herefield Hospital, Hertfordshire, were yesterday transplanting the donated heart into the girl, also aged 11, who has been a patient there for several weeks.

Dr Magdi Yacoub and his team flew to Salisbury General Hospital, Wiltshire, on Saturday after doctors told the boy's parents there was no hope of saving him. He had received severe head injuries and was being kept alive on a life-support machine.

The boy's parents gave their consent for his organs to be removed and Dr Yacoub was told. He flew to Wiltshire, performed the removal operation and was then flown back to Herefield.

Labour set to reject black section demand

Black activists' demands for special rights of representation in the Labour Party are expected to be rejected at a meeting in Westminster of the national executive organization committee today (Anthony Evans, Political Correspondent writes).

A long-term consultative exercise has recently been concluded by Labour's working group on positive discrimination. It has decided to recommend the creation of black sections, which will be allowed to send delegates to local constituency parties, in an attempt to overcome the general lack of recognition and involvement of blacks.

However, a minority on the working party, including Mr Alf Dubs, Labour's frontbench spokesman on race, opposed black sections on the ground that they would harm the unity of the party.

Campaign to fight against immigration controls

A campaign to co-ordinate the dozens of local campaigns against specific deportation cases was launched in London yesterday.

The new campaign, to be independent of central and local government control, is expected to move from resisting individual cases into a more general opposition to immigration controls as "racist, sexist, and anti-working class".

But it has also been asked to mount specific campaigns on behalf of Tamil refugees from Sri Lanka, and for Katrina and Vasilis Nicola, the Cypriot couple facing deportation, who have taken sanctuary in a London church for the past 103 days.

More than 200 people from nearly 50 organizations attended the conference organized by the GLC anti-deportation working group. But they made plain that they felt the new campaign should reflect the working class basis of many local deportation campaigns, by resisting any attempt by political groups to take over.

After initial reluctance, Mr Ken Livingstone, leader of the GLC, was allowed to speak. He told the conference that, at a meeting with Tamil groups and the British Council for Refugees last week, he had agreed to press for a £36,000 grant from the GLC for an emergency hostel for more than 100 Tamil refugees in London.

The conference agreed to write to Mr Neil Kinnock, leader of the Labour Party, asking him to make clear his position on the Tamil refugees.

Achieving the balance between individual and state provision

The government's review of social security is the most comprehensive in more than 40 years. Its green paper claims to be built on twin pillars, with four interlocking but sometimes conflicting objectives. The pillars are the balance between individual and state provision. The objectives are to target help on genuine need, to ensure the system is affordable and does not discourage work incentives; to simplify and to boost local authorities' accountability. In the first of a series of articles, Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent, examines the Government's proposals and attempts an assessment of their likely impact.

For almost 40 years, the United Kingdom's social security system has cared for practically everyone from the cradle to the grave. Under the Government's proposals last week it will cease to do so.

The £30 death grant and the £25 maternity grant, two of the most useless but best-loved of the £40 billion system's 30-plus benefits, are effectively to be abolished. In normal times, either proposal would involve financial cuts in a political context of the whole system, they may slip through almost unnoticed.

The death grant was one of Beveridge's innovations. Introduced in 1949 at £20 to help meet funeral costs it has been uprated twice, last in 1967, illustrating the danger of beneficiaries of round-figure, lump-sum payments which are not indexed. They tend not to get uprated. Today it makes a negligible contribution to the £350 cost of even a simple funeral. The actual benefit costs £17 million a year. But because it is linked to national insurance contribution records, administration costs another £11 million a year. The rules are constructed so that the very oldest, and thus often poorest, get less than £30 or nothing. The grant is paid for 610,000 of the estimated 660,000 deaths a year. But it is so inadequate that relatives on supplementary benefits can claim extra help for arranging funerals - 11,250 of them in 1983, who received an average payment of £220 at a cost of £2.5 million.

Under the Government's proposals, both benefits will go to be replaced by help from the new social fund. The payments will go to both those on income support, the replacement for supplementary benefit, and those in low-paid work who at present cannot qualify for extra help above the death grant. But the payments will be discretionary, not a right under rules, as the existing supplementary benefit payments are. And the money will be repayable from the deceased's estate or the relative's resources if they prove sufficient.

But about 500,000 mothers a year will lose the £25 grant, and at first sight those on supplementary benefit will not gain and may even lose. At present many of them get on average £60 and the £25 maternity

SOCIAL SECURITY REVIEW



Ministers insist the questioning will be "sensitive". Critics fear it will mean more intrusive questioning not less, with wide variations in help from one benefit office to another. The £20 million paid in benefit will presumably go into the fund, although it is not clear whether the £12 million administration cost will as well.

A national insurance benefit (the death grant) will disappear, but with so concomitant reduction in national insurance rates the cost is too small. The proposal should concentrate help where it is most needed, although how generous the fund will be remains to be seen. Others will be expected to save or insure for funeral costs. The reform has its merits.

MATERNITY GRANT: The Government is on less sure ground with maternity grant and benefits. The £25 maternity grant, paid to all 720,000 mothers a year, costs £18 million. But it is almost useless. It pays less than half the cost of a cot, barely 10 per cent of the £250 rock-bottom sum needed for a first baby's equipment. The Princess of Wales is entitled to it, as well as Mrs Mop. For those on supplementary benefit, another 170,000 payments for equipment are made, averaging £60 and costing £10 million.

The Government proposes to end the maternity grant, paying instead a higher sum, "around £75" from the social fund, to those on income support and the new Family Credit. That will provide more help for those in low-paid work who only get the £25 grant at present.

The Government has failed to line up the qualifications for maternity allowance and pay, so women get maternity pay only if they have been with the same employer for two years. "The same level of benefit is intended to persuade the unemployed to get back to work quickly and women to stay off work for 18 weeks to devote time to their baby. That is illogical," she said.

Next: Widow's benefits Letters, page 11

grant, a total of £85 against the new grant of "around £75". The figures suggest a saving of perhaps £2 million by paying the larger grant to fewer people, between 150,000 and 200,000 against more than 700,000 at present.

But BR will continue to charter trains to football supporters' clubs for away matches, provided the clubs are approved by the Football Association and the Football League. Alcohol will be banned on these trains, which are stewarded by club officials, although it has been permitted on some in the past.

The move to end "football specials" was agreed in expectation of a Government directive to end the service, a British Railways Board spokesman said yesterday. "It will certainly mean a loss of revenue for British Rail," he said. "But BR must play its part in solving the problem of soccer violence."

Further talks are due between BR and the football authorities before final plans are made for next season. One situation to be discussed is the inevitable switch by supporters to ordinary scheduled services, whose passengers were previously protected by the availability of special trains.

The changes will mean some women who do not qualify for the allowance will now do so. But they are likely to be more than offset by more than 80,000 women a year who would cease to qualify under the tougher test of recent work. That would save about £40 million, offset by the new qualifiers.

The proposals will target the benefits better. But they will still leave the United Kingdom's maternity benefits far lower than much of Europe, according to Joan Brown of the Policy Studies Institute.

BR agrees to drop 'football specials'

British Rail has provisionally agreed to end its "football special" services as part of the national effort to curb football violence.

The British Railways Board's Inter City section decided to stop laying on the special football supporters' trains after talks with the game's authorities after the European Cup Final disaster in Brussels.

But BR will continue to charter trains to football supporters' clubs for away matches, provided the clubs are approved by the Football Association and the Football League. Alcohol will be banned on these trains, which are stewarded by club officials, although it has been permitted on some in the past.

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The submarine HMS Olympus passing through Tower Bridge after a weekend visit to London for the tenth anniversary of Olympus Optical's British operation (Photograph: Jonathan Eastland).

Princess is pleased by pensioner's sonnet

A sonnet written by a Peterborough pensioner to commemorate the birthday of Prince William, has touched the heart of the Princess of Wales.

Mr Dan Buckley, aged 74, a former railwayman, sent 74 to Buckingham Palace to mark Prince William's third birthday on June 21. He has written a poem to mark every royal occasion since the silver jubilee of King George V in 1935.

His latest work took a week to write, and another week to summon up the courage to send it to the Princess. The 14 lines of verse concluded: *May all your future birthdays down the years, Be excellently full of fairest fare; No sorrows cloud the lustre of your eyes, To cause you pain or cruel heartless cares; But wisdom's power flood your mind.*

To rear above troubles and men's evil surprise. The reply from the Princess's lady in waiting says: "The Princess of Wales asks me to thank you very much for your message of good wishes which you kindly sent on the occasion of Prince William's third birthday. Her Royal Highness was most touched by your kind thought, and has asked me to send you her sincerest thanks and best wishes."

Mr Buckley, who has been writing poetry since he was a boy, said yesterday: "I wrote this one because Ted Hughes, the Poet Laureate, is not doing his job. He keeps on writing about animals."

Satellite TV scheme for wider screens

A revolutionary system for broadcasting satellite television pictures, which will allow wider television screens and stereo sound, is being unveiled to an international audience this week in Montreux (Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent writes).

About 4,000 delegates are expected to have attended by the end of the symposium on Wednesday. The Independent Broadcasting Authority system will give the same clarity to television pictures as would be seen if the picture were composed of about 900 lines instead of the 625 now in use in Britain.

The television system is called Enhanced CMAC and its British designers are keen on putting a marker down this week in an attempt to try to get it accepted as an international standard. One of the main rivals for international recognition is the Japanese high definition television system which broadcasts using 1,125 lines, nearly twice that used by the British.

Death in collapsed well caused by asphyxia

Mr Ramunas Girenas, who was found dead at the bottom of a collapsed well on the Isle of Wight, died of asphyxia, police disclosed yesterday.

It was understood that a post-mortem examination on Mr Girenas, aged 22, indicated that

he suffered no significant injuries when the walls of the 50ft well at Ventnor caved in.

Although he was not killed instantly, he died before the gang of workmen began the task of removing 90 tons of rubble.

50 years of refuge and support for alcoholics

Several hundred Britons will make a desperate attempt today to give up drinking and will telephone one of the volunteers manning the switchboard of Alcoholics Anonymous, the pioneering self-help organization that has done so much to help heavy drinkers.

AA celebrates the fiftieth anniversary today of its birth in Akron, Ohio, where on June 10, 1935, a local doctor, Bob Smith, managed to get through the entire day without a drink.

A few days earlier he had met Bill Wilson, a fellow alcoholic, who was visiting Akron on a business trip. After discussing their heavy drinking, the idea for a fellowship of sufferers forswearing alcohol for the rest of their lives was born.

Since then the organization has spread to 116 countries and has more than one million members. In 1947 an American member, Grace O. (all members aside from the founders are anonymous) helped to set up the British section, which now has more than 30,000 members in 2,038 self-help groups.

More than one million

Britons are thought to be problem drinkers and the social costs of alcohol abuse are soaring, but little is known of the organization which prides itself on preserving the anonymity of its members.

Classless, non-political and adhering to no religious creed or social philosophy, the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. Membership records do not exist and the organization is financially self-supporting.

Almost completely decentralized, although there is a general services office in south-west London, AA draws its strength from local branches. Members meet in groups to provide mutual support and guidance, adhering to 12 guidelines governing personal self-improvement and 12 tenets defining the organization's purpose.

They do not promise to abstain from alcohol for ever, but concentrate on keeping sober a day at a time. Some dispute AA's insistence that alcoholism is an illness. The fact remains that it has saved and is still saving thousands of lives throughout the world.

Leading article, page 11

Less spent on food and drinks

People in Britain spent less on food and non-alcoholic drinks in the first quarter of this year than in either the previous quarter or the corresponding period last year, according to a survey by the Ministry of Agriculture (Our Agriculture Correspondent writes).

Not so much should be read into the differences, which are marginal and reflect the fact that food expenditure as a proportion of purchasing power, has been in decline for several years.

There was a decline in the consumption of milk, cheese, margarine, eggs, fresh and processed fish, fresh green vegetables, fruit juices, sugar, white bread, biscuits and tea. Sales of butter increased, probably because of a special EEC subsidy, as did sales of potatoes and frozen and canned vegetables.

But there were few detectable patterns. For example, in spite of claims by vegetarians, consumption of red meat was marginally up. National Food Survey: Household Food Consumption in the First Quarter of 1985.

Palumbo set for new City planning battle

A new planning battle could be about to begin over the Mansion House Square site in the City of London. Mr Peter Palumbo is to announce within the next month his latest plans for the site on which an office building, christened "the glass stump" by the Prince of Wales, was to have been built.

Last month Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, ruled against the tower and piazza designed by Mies van der Rohe but left open the possibility that listed Victorian buildings on the site could be demolished "if there were acceptable proposals".

Conservationists had fought Mr Palumbo's proposals on the grounds of the intrinsic interest of the existing buildings and of the street pattern. But Mr Palumbo has said that the only way to save at least half of the buildings would be to knock them down and build replicas. The site will not be the same size as the original Mies development, because the Bank of New Zealand building in Queen Victoria Street will not be included.

Back to square one, page 8

Inquiry call on plan to build near cathedral

Conservationists are calling for a public inquiry about a controversial plan to build 63 retirement homes on 2.5 acres of meadows and gardens next to Ely Cathedral, one of Europe's greatest medieval buildings. The plan, which is supported by the dean and chapter, will be considered at a planning and development committee meeting of East Cambridgeshire District Council on Wednesday.

The site is between the east end of the cathedral, which dates from 1081, and Broad Street car park. Medieval walls and a number of mature trees would go if the scheme is approved. The dean, the Very Rev William Patterson, has said that £1 million is needed to carry out essential repairs to the listed domestic buildings.

The local group of Friends of the Earth, supported by Save Britain's Heritage, has appealed to Mr Francis Pym, MP for Cambridgeshire South East, to ask Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, to hold a public inquiry if the plan is approved. Save Britain's Heritage says that the land around the cathedral should be considered as "sacrosanct", and that if new housing is needed in Ely, there are more suitable sites available. The objectors complain that there have not been proper consultations; that they should be given time to raise the money for the repairs; and that important views of the cathedral would be lost for ever. The Very Rev Patterson, who has said that work would start on site later this month if the scheme is approved, has declined to attend a public meeting to discuss the proposal tonight. He will meet Mr Sherban Cantuzino, secretary of the Royal Fine Art Commission, on Wednesday, before the planning committee meeting, to discuss the commission's views.



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Teachers discuss ten proposals for a professional watchdog

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Draft proposals for a general teaching council, which would set standards for the profession in the same way as the General Medical Council does for doctors, are being discussed by teachers' organizations.

Representatives of 16 teachers' groups who have been meeting for the past 18 months have produced a document which proposes ten functions for any new professional body, including the setting of entry qualifications, drawing up a code of practice and the power to strike teachers off a register.

The latest proposals stand a better chance of success than previous attempts to establish a general teaching council. The organizers have avoided the question of how it should be composed because it was that issue which ended similar talks in the late 1970s.

Support for a professional body for teachers has been growing, and teachers believe that it would enhance their status keep the politicians at bay and improve standards.

less keen, because he does not think that it is in the interest of the public.

Mr John Sayer, chairman of the working party which has drawn up the proposals and a former president of the Secondary Heads Association, said that he hoped to meet Sir Keith's objection.

"We are trying to get away from the limited view of a general teaching council which has been discussed in the past and to ask ourselves about the function of a council which is open to the public, which covers the whole area of teacher training as well as professional standards," he said.

"We are all aware of the divisive nature of the education service and the bewilderment of the public when faced with this varied array of pyramids of power."

The document, which has been sent to teachers' organizations and will be discussed at a conference in September, says that salaries and conditions of service should not be issues for the council's concern but that the school curriculum should be

The council should "meet the wish for a strong measure of self-government in professional matters, and should assume or subsume the responsibilities currently held by a number of disparate advisory bodies," the document says.

"It would have, therefore, an overriding responsibility for the maintenance of standards within the profession, and for articulating information and advice about professional requirements to its members, to the Government, to the public and to the profession abroad."

Its functions should cover teacher supply and training, qualification and registration, professional discipline, probation, education, in-service education, retraining, research and external relations.

The council would take over the role of the Advisory Council for the Supply and Education of Teachers and advise the Government on teacher numbers. It would also take over the role of the Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education by approving teacher training courses.

More rights sought for prisoners to avoid riots

New safeguards are needed if prison riots are to be prevented as Home Office proposals intend, the Prison Reform Trust says in a report today (Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent, writes).

Prisons cannot be run by coercion, it says. Inmates' rights should be seen as a way of ensuring prisons can be made safer for all who live and work in them.

All prisoners should have access to telephones and censorship ended for everyone but high-security inmates.

There should be a new appeals committee to review decisions on the level of security categorization given to prisoners.

The trust's report says it shares the concern expressed by the Prison Officers' Association about a possible consequence of a series of innovative judgments which have opened up the prison disciplinary system to public scrutiny and judicial review.

The trust, like the association, fears the disciplinary system could be driven "under ground" and formal adjudications replaced with administrative segregations, relocations, adverse parole reviews and other measures.

Mr Stephen Shaw, director of the trust, said yesterday that the control situation in Britain's high-security jails could be understood only in the context of over-long prison sentences and unnecessary restrictions on prisoners' rights.

Babies inquiry nears end

The £1 million inquiry into the "Kerry babies" affair enters its final stages at Dublin Castle today when lawyers for the police and the family at the centre of the case begin their submissions.

The case began in April last year when police began an investigation into the death of an infant boy found with multiple stab wounds on a beach at Cahirciveen, Co Kerry, in the Irish Republic.

Plaid choice

Plaid Cymru, the Welsh nationalist party, has chosen Mrs Janet Davies, the party's senior vice-chairperson, to fight the Brecon and Radnor by-election. She is a former party spokeswoman on agriculture.



Chancellor Kohl welcoming Mr Zhao in Bonn at the start of his nine-day West German visit.

UK woos China's air force chief

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

China's air force chief, General Zhang Ting Fa, flew to Britain last night, 24 hours after his Prime Minister, Mr Zhao Ziyang, left London for West Germany on the next leg of his European tour. He was met in Bonn by Chancellor Kohl.

Mr Zhao's and the general's visits to Britain reflect the Anglo-Chinese rapprochement following the deal on Hong Kong.

General Zhang, the highest-ranking Chinese officer to come here, will today see Mr Michael Heseltine, the Defence Secretary, and Mr Adam Butler, Minister of State for Defence Procurement, at the start of a 10-day tour of Air Force and aerospace establishments.

Not since the 1970s, when Britain vigorously but unsuccessfully tried to sell China the Harrier vertical take-off aircraft, has there been so much hope of exporting defence technology and expertise to the People's Liberation Army, which encompasses the Navy and Air Force.

Defence was one of the areas specifically referred to in the economic co-operation deal which was one of two agreements signed by Mrs Margaret Thatcher and the Chinese Prime Minister last week. He met Mrs Thatcher six times while he was here, the last occasion being just after breakfast on the day of his departure when she called at his Claridge's suite to bid him farewell.

Shortly after, at a brief press conference, he announced that under the other agreement, on civil nuclear co-operation, China was willing to export nuclear fuel to this country in return for British technology. He was also reported to have promised that dissidents in China would no longer be jailed for their political beliefs alone. But it was the hope of improving Anglo-Chinese trade which was behind the red-carpet treatment accorded Mr Zhao whenever he went during his visits to London, Scotland and Cambridge.

The British connection at present represents 1 per cent of China's foreign trade.

'Fortress Russia' mood grips Kremlin leaders

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Only three months after the election of Mr Mikhail Gorbachev as party leader, the Kremlin is in an increasingly defensive and isolationist mood, blaming a range of problems on the West, particularly the United States.

They include tension on the Afghan-Pakistan border, the impasse over arms control and Star Wars, and continuing repercussions of the attempt on the life of the Pope.

In an article symptomatic of this "Fortress Russia" mood, Dr Anatoly Alexandrov, the veteran President of the Academy of Sciences, yesterday accused the United States in *Izvestia* of trying to "slow down the pace of Soviet development" by imposing high technology embargoes and curtailing scientific contacts.

He called for "immediate creative efforts in science and industry throughout the entire country to reduce 'excessive dependence on Western technologies' and accelerate Russia's own research and development."

Diplomats say Russia periodically feels itself encircled by enemies and unjustly accused. In this mood the Kremlin is not inclined to admit faults in its own behaviour or make even minimal concessions.

Pravda yesterday accused Washington of de facto abandonment of the Salt 2 arms control treaty, without waiting for Mr Reagan's announcement today.

Observers note that Mr Gorbachev, aged 54, is still feeling his way in foreign policy, which largely remains in the hands of Mr Andrei Gromyko. "In any case Mr Gorbachev is

new to the job of leader and cannot afford to compromise in case this is seen as weakness", one diplomat said.

In Afghanistan, where the garrison of Bamiyan has been under siege, right on the Pakistan border, Moscow has stepped up the pressure rather than lowering it. Pakistan has borne the brunt of Soviet anger, with violent attacks on Islamabad every day in the Soviet media for harbouring and aiding Afghan rebels.

During the visit to Moscow recently by Mr Rajiv Gandhi, Mr Gorbachev revived the idea of an Asian security pact. Moscow has increasingly stressed that Russia and India have a common interest against Pakistan and the United States in the region.

Diplomats said Russia appeared ready to risk confrontation with Pakistan on the assumption that India would turn a blind eye. Yesterday *Sovetskoye Rossiya* accused President Zia of acting as the instrument of imperialism by constructing a nuclear bomb with American help.

Moscow has stepped up its charge that America is responsible for "global state terrorism" from Afghanistan to Nicaragua and Central America.

The trial of Mehmet Ali Agca in Rome and the Turkish terrorist's charge that Moscow is the centre of international terrorism have embarrassed the Kremlin.

Pravda said Mr Reagan dreamed only of gathering all the gangsters in American employ, from Afghanistan to Nicaragua, "under the black banner of anti-communism".

Zia warns Afghans his patience is running out

From Hasan Akhtar, Islamabad

General Zia, the president and military ruler of Pakistan, has warned the Moscow-backed Karmal regime in Kabul that in the event of continued air and ground attacks on Pakistan by Afghan Government forces, his Government would have to revise its policy of exercising restraint in dealing with these attacks.

General Zia's latest statement on the Afghan attacks came after he visited a village called Swear, near Darosh in Chitral, just a few miles from the Afghan border. It had been bombed by the Afghan Air

Force, reportedly killing 13 people including Afghan children and women refugees, and wounding 35 others, on May 32.

In an apparent reference to demands in Pakistan that the Government should take retaliatory measures, especially now its air force was equipped with American-supplied F16 aircraft, General Zia said: "We have even accepted sharp criticism from our own people, persisting with a policy of deliberate restraint in the conviction that this is a small price to pay for keeping alive the hope of (political) settlement"

Police fear effects of GLC film

By Colin Hughes and Stewart Tendler

Police leaders fear that a video film and poster issued by the Greater London Council could increase difficulties between officers and the young, especially in already tense inner city areas.

The 30-minute film, called *Policing London*, was issued last month by the GLC's police committee support unit, and all 50 copies are out on hire. Demand is such that the GLC is thinking of making fresh copies.

The film, and poster, originally issued last year, are partly based on the highly-critical Policy Studies Institute report on Scotland Yard and the Metropolitan Police, published in late 1983.

The poster covers 16 areas of policing including "militarization", guns, police dogs, "routine over-reaction", the "cult of masculinity" among detectives and the "search for excite-



One of the photographs displayed on the posters.

ment" by officers. Photographs of the police in action are captioned with quotations from the PSI report.

The video follows a number of incidents as two fictitious newspaper reporters examine the work of the police.

Scotland Yard has not made any specific complaint to the GLC, but the Police Federation has publicly criticized the poster and film, although Mr Tony Judge, spokesman for the

federation, said there was little else that could be done.

"They have not broken the law. The problem is the average citizen will see it as crude propaganda, but the police worry in that it could be shown in youth clubs and Inner London Education Authority schools in tense areas, simply to confirm the view of the police as enemies", he said. The video lent the prestige of the *News* and *GLC* to that view of the police.

British scientists make cancer discovery

Scientists tackle child cancer

Cancer ward saved by charity

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● Problems behind the pomp ● Big threat to small farmers ● Howe stands firm on Gibraltar

Agriculture will take the strain as Spain and Portugal come to market

By Ian Murray

With pride and not a little pomp, Lisbon and Madrid play host on Wednesday at the ceremonies which will bring Portugal and Spain into the European Community. It will not be surprising if historians in years to come find that the signatures of Europe's leaders on the huge Treaty of Accession look a trifle shaky and nervous.

This latest - and probably last - enlargement of the EEC represents a considerable political achievement, which should help keep Spain inside Nato and which creates a democratic block of nations of superpower proportions.

Only deliberate footdragging or sabotage by one or more of the 12 national parliaments - who must all ratify the treaty - will keep the two countries out of the Community for the start of next year. But there are many real worries ahead.

Work on putting the document together only ended at 5am last Friday after consecutive all-night sessions which left the small team of technical experts reeling.

Their work began in earnest only when the politicians ended eight years of negotiation in a marathon session at the end of March. Since then, the 403

articles of the treaties with their 30 or so joint declarations and 30 or so carefully-worded protocols have had to be hammered out in nine languages involving the greatest care.

The whole process is believed to have required no fewer than 23 million sheets of paper. "Some of it was recycled", said an official. "Some of the words were too."

The ominous parts of the agreements refer to the so-called "joint declarations". These are points where there is still need for a full agreement and where both sides want to make certain that their position is set down clearly. When Britain joined, there were only five such declarations. This time there are more than 50.

This shows that despite the general rejoicing this week that the whole process of negotiation is almost finished (the tired officials in Brussels still have a few blanks to fill in) there is not a little apprehension about what it will mean.

The Community's farm acreage will increase by 30 per cent, the farm labour force will grow by 25 per cent and the number of farms will rise by 32 per cent. At

the same time the number of consumers will increase by around 18 per cent.

Community farm ministers, who traditionally like to drag their feet for that they may never reach agreement before the CAP collapses under the strain.

In the enlarged Community, of the total 53 million population, some 34 million have a living standard comparable only with the very poorest areas of southern Italy and the west of Ireland.

This means that it will tend to be a more left-wing Community and the Socialists in the European Parliament are already looking forward to having overall control in Strasbourg for the first time.

Again it means that the whole balance of the Community, which has so far been loaded in favour of the north, will tip to the south. Regional and social fund money for the depressed areas of Scotland and Wallonia will be increasingly difficult to come by.

The worries and uncertainties may be forgotten with the champagne of Wednesday, but a bad hangover is guaranteed.



Sir Geoffrey Howe meeting the Governor of Gibraltar, Sir David Williams (centre), and the Prime Minister, Sir Joshua Hassan, when he arrived for his two-day visit.

Independence no option for Rock

From Our Correspondent Gibraltar

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, told the people of Gibraltar on Saturday that independence is not an option open to them. He urged them rather to make the best of the opportunity of Spanish membership of the EEC.

"Independence is not an option because the British title

to sovereignty is founded on the Utrecht Treaty which provides that if British sovereignty ended, on the basis of the wishes of Gibraltar's people, sovereignty would pass to Spain," Sir Geoffrey declared on television here after a fresh meeting with Señor Fernando Morán, his Spanish colleague, during the Nato ministers' gathering on Friday in Portugal.

Sir Geoffrey told Spanish colleagues he is considering Señor Morán's proposals for the political future of Gibraltar. Señor Morán has said he has grounds to hope Spain's sovereignty problems over the Rock will be satisfied "in less than 25 years".

Sir Geoffrey reiterated several times the British Government's continuing commitment to honour the freely and

democratically expressed wishes of the people of Gibraltar. He said that those wishes could change, but it was too early to say within what time scale or on what basis.

He refused to promise there would be no change without a referendum. The normal process, he said, would be to consult the democratically elected government.

Ozal angry at Europe criticism of police Bill

From Rasit Gurdilek Ankara

Mr Turgut Ozal, the Turkish Prime Minister, has accused the EEC of intervening in his country's domestic affairs by opposing a draft Bill which envisages vesting unprecedented powers in the police.

Mr Gwynn Morgan, the representative of the European Commission here, had told the press earlier that the Bill, if it became law, would deliver a fatal blow to the ongoing efforts for normalization of ties between Turkey and the Community. He added that Brussels's concern had been known to the Turkish Foreign Ministry.

In a statement quoted by state radio at the weekend, Mr Ozal said the EEC had no right to comment on, react to or oppose a Bill being debated by the Turkish Parliament.

The Bill frees the police from the obligation of securing court warrants for tapping phones, intercepting and monitoring private mail, searching private homes, arraigning people or shutting down professional organizations.

Mr Ozal had been defending the Bill as necessary as an effective fight against terrorism after the gradual lifting of martial law from the main cities

Take a man with five cows . . .

How governments failed to plan

To mark Wednesday's signing by Spain and Portugal of the treaties of accession to the European community, Richard Wigg in Santiago de Compostela outlines what joining means for Spain, in the first of two articles.



In Galicia's capital every morning old peasant women dressed in black still sell milk direct from their two-cow smallholdings.

"We have an archaic agriculture here; we must try one day to put ourselves on a European plane," said a farmer, with five cows on a farm 10 miles from here.

He expresses the frustrations of many of his kind, who failed to merge their smallholdings while governments failed to plan a modern infrastructure to help them.

"I believe entry will be good for Spain, but well-nigh disastrous for people here," a prominent Galician journalist commented.

In this part of north-west Spain the look these days is not forward but backwards, to the opportunities missed for modernizing in time for EEC entry. Only 18 per cent of Galicia's farmers have more than nine cows, compared to 85 per cent of farmers in the EEC, excluding Greece.

In the rest of Spain public opinion polls show that more than 60 per cent of Spaniards believe entry will have positive results.

Spain's "grand strategy" for entry has been to ensure the future of its Mediterranean agriculture, essentially citrus fruits and vegetables.

Northern Spain's continental agriculture - dairy farming, cattle rearing and cereals - will be severely hit. In Galicia, where farmers' average income is half the average elsewhere, the effects will be felt worst of all. Some 40 per cent of Spain's farms will disappear during the transition period, according to one farmers' leader.

Cheaper, better quality dairy products will come in from France, with the big companies preferring to distribute these in Catalonia, the Basque country and Madrid. Spain's negotiators in Brussels strove only late in the day for quotas to lessen the shock.

The well-organized citrus fruit growers around Valencia and the fruit and vegetable growers farther south (though they protest against the four-plus-six-year transition period, designed to protect French and

Italian farmers) know their expansion in European markets is assured in the long run.

"We already developed our agriculture for that market and structured ourselves to that demand," says an orange grower who exports to Britain.

Behind closed doors Señor Manuel Marín, Spain's chief EEC negotiator, has emphasized what such sectors stand to gain once in the Community. By insisting on a lengthy period of transition and full benefits not coming for 10 years the community, however, hopes to have lessened the costs of Spanish entry - their main worry - and given themselves time to evaluate their own increased exports to Spain.

Spain's existing high industrial tariff barriers, erected by the Franco regime, will come down in eight stages over seven years.

With productivity standing at only 75 per cent of the average for EEC companies and VAT levied for the first time in Spain from next January, Spanish industry knows it is in for a major shake-out.

Señor José Cuevas, chairman of the National Employers' Confederation, admits that this is necessary for modernization. The 1970 EEC Agreement, under which Spain became a major car exporter, could not last.

"There's a great disparity in preparation between one firm and another," said a leading Barcelona industrialist. "Entry will go well or badly depending on our own efforts. After a world crisis the EEC will not solve our problems for us."

In the fishing industry Basque fleets have done better than they expected, and said so. But Galicia has suffered. Ensuring that the Spanish skippers respect the regulations will be up to the community.

The governing Socialist Party has made EEC entry the banner of its efforts to give Spain a more respected role in the world. It will "cash the cheque" promptly at the next general election, before public opinion counts the entry costs.

Once a member, Spain will have to choose between joining the "southern block" against the richer northern countries or, probably more advantageous in the longer term, joining the Franco-German axis.

In Catalonia, the region most anxious to get the maximum advantage from proximity to European markets, they emphasize the role of entry in "legitimizing" the current modernization of Spain.

Tomorrow: Portugal

	SPAIN (1982 figures)	PORTUGAL (1982 figures)
Population	38 million	10 million
Per capita income as percentage of EEC average	58%	32%
	(Italy 72%)	(Greece 50%)

Fury at Hong Kong gag

From David Bonavia, Hong Kong

Hong Kong lawyers and public figures are up in arms about a Bill introduced by the government to give special protection to members of the legislature against criticism from any quarter.

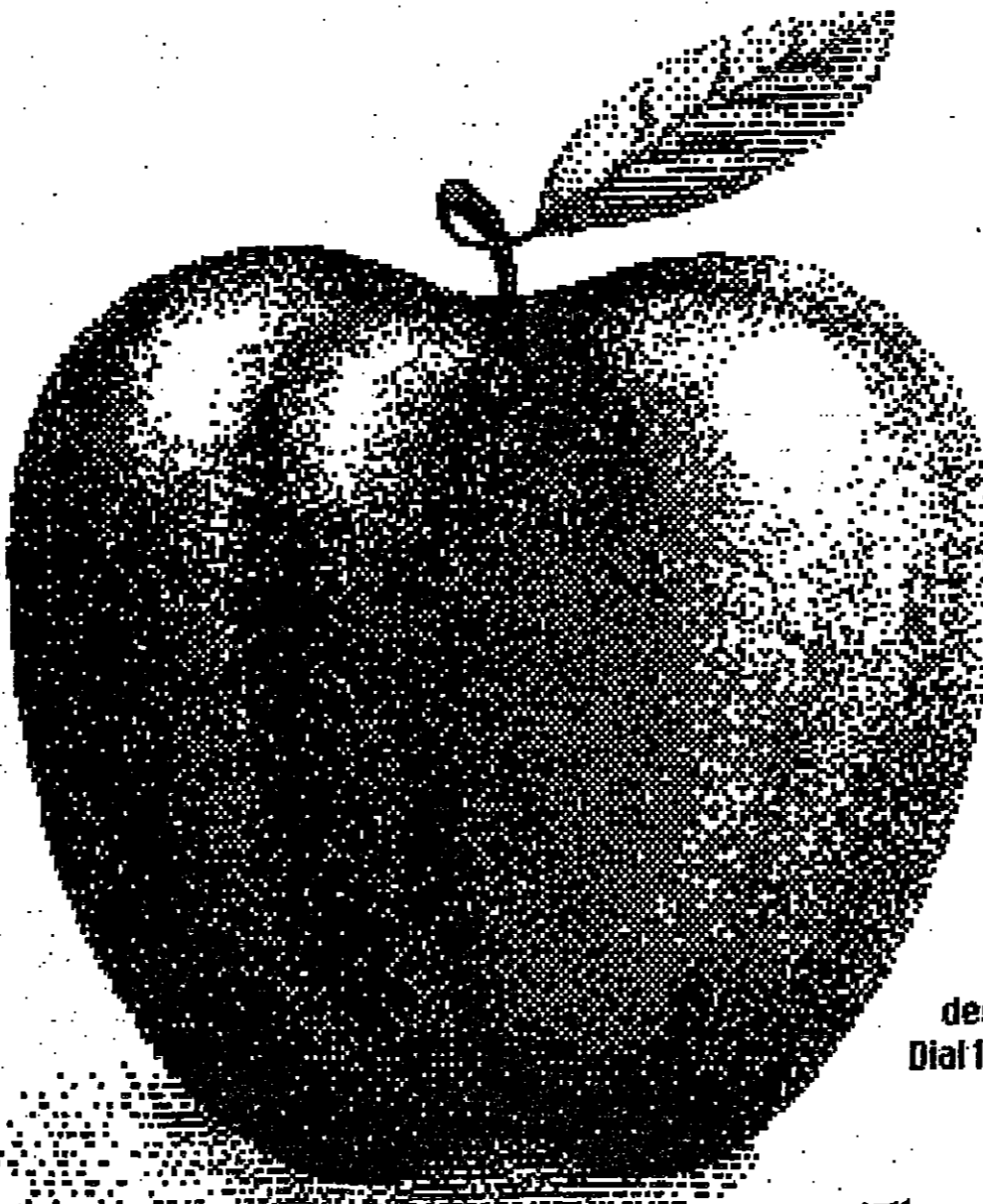
Sir Edward Youde, the Governor, was non-committal about it when he returned at the weekend from a visit to London. The legislation would make it a criminal offence for anyone to mention the acts or words of a member of the

council with "intentional disrespect".

Lawyers feel the phrase is too vague and could be abused to prevent criticisms of government officials, some of whom sit on the council. This is felt to be particularly undesirable at a time when Hong Kong is attempting to set up new forms of self-government before 1997, when full sovereignty will revert to China.

The council of the Hong Kong Law Society is to protest to the Chief Justice

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Agency chief says Russia had big success CIA admits spy ring damage

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Mr William Casey, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, believes the Walker spy ring was a big success for the Soviet Union. He said it confirmed that the KGB had a large and well-organized espionage programme operating worldwide. His remarks came as United States military and intelligence officers continued their assessment of the security damage caused by the alleged spying activities of three members of the Walker naval family, plus a fourth man also under arrest. Further arrests are expected. Mr Casey said that "these folks that have been arrested seemed to have made a cottage industry out of spying". The information given to the Soviet Union was quite damaging to American interests. "I cannot fully assess it yet. But these people were in a position to acquire and put together a great deal of information which we very much want to keep away from the Soviets. It was clear that the Walkers were in a position to get a great deal of information about communication codes. And they were probably in a position to learn a lot about placement and movement of our ships and perhaps allied vessels," he said. In an interview with *US News and World Report* Mr Casey said that the top Soviet priority was to gain access to US advanced technology. "We know they have a very organized, far-flung effort to determine what it is they want, to target and find out where the work is being done, to send people out with names and addresses, to go after the technology they seek. This is done on a worldwide basis." About 15 years ago the KGB began to recruit 100 people a year from technical and scientific schools, and trained them to target, access and chase secrets. "We've identified some 300 dummy firms world-wide that

are small technology-smuggling shops. These entrepreneurs in technical piracy go out on the world market. They say they want to buy this and buy that and people hustle to get it for them." The CIA estimated that about 1,000 people were working in an organization in Moscow that kept track of who had what in the way of advanced technology, and what weapons it went into. It was conducted on a very organized systematic basis. There was an annual report on the needs of various government ministries. "These ministries determine what they want in the way of technology - production equipment, guidance, electronics, micro-electronics, computers, whatever. They put out a wish-list - a directory every year of what they want", he said. Mr Casey, who rarely gives interviews said KGB spies tried to buy and steal blue prints.

"About a year ago the FBI grabbed somebody who had the drawings for our MX. They get a lot of it through legitimate trade channels, some of the dummy firms set up by the Soviets will buy things from here in the United States and ship them to some other country from which they can pass them on to the Soviet Union." He added that four years ago the US did not realise the degree to which the precision, power and accuracy of Soviet weapons depended upon US technology. "Their space shuttle is pretty much modelled on ours. Their guidance system in their strategic nuclear missiles is pretty much a copy of what we have. We frequently know enough about their weapons so that we can identify it when they turn up with a feature we have had a couple of years. It's a big effort, and it pays off big", Mr Casey said.



Parisian football hooligans going through their act at the French Cup final between Paris-St Germain and Monaco on Saturday. They call themselves Kop after Liverpool's fans and have blossomed since the Heysel stadium disaster in Brussels in which 38 died.

General castigates Russians for deadlock in Geneva

By Our Foreign Staff

General Edward Rowley, the special adviser on arms control to the US Secretary of State, yesterday accused the Russians of regressing in the Geneva arms talks. Speaking on the BBC's *The World This Weekend*, he dismissed the Soviet offer to cut their nuclear arms programme by more than 25 per cent in return for a halt in the American Strategic Defence Initiative. He said: "They are asking us to stop our research programme while they are continuing theirs. They started before us. They put about 50 per cent of their resources into research." The Americans had invested less than 10 per cent of defence resources into Star Wars research, he said. He added that the "fine print" of the Soviet offer had to be scrutinized. "The number of missiles isn't the criterion - it's the number of warheads. Even with a 25 per cent reduction in missiles, they could up by 50 per cent the number of warheads." The US negotiators had proposed to reduce the number of American warheads from about 7,500 to about 5,000. "We are prepared to go lower if the Soviets go lower," he said. General Rowley repeated the argument that Star Wars was simply a research programme and research on either side could not be controlled in ways

which could be satisfactorily verified. He said the Russians had clearly violated the Salt agreements and added: "Many people are asking why should we continue to abide by these limits when the Soviets are so flagrantly not." He did not know the final US response to the Soviet suggestion that simply placing Trident submarines in dry dock when Salt 2 expires at the end of the year without dismantling weaponry would be a breach of the treaty. President Reagan would await Mr Shultz's report on discussions with Sir Geoffrey Howe and other Western foreign ministers before his Cabinet made a decision. To the claim that America's allies were "lukewarm" over Star Wars, he said: "As I go round and explain, they become warmer." Moscow on the eve of President Reagan's announcement today of US compliance with Salt 2 *Pravda* accused America of planning to abrogate it whatever happened, "either openly and in full or creepily, step by step" (Richard Owen writes).

The only question was which of these options was "less painful to the US from the point of view of world public reaction". In an editorial marked by bitter language, the newspaper said the Reagan Administration was "raising its hand against the very foundations of international stability and getting ready to wreck the Salt 2 treaty". This was a dangerous path. "If the Administration steps over that threshold it will incur grave responsibility for all the consequences." Salt 2, which sets limits on strategic weapons, was signed in 1979 but never ratified, partly because of the invasion of Afghanistan, and partly because some American senators found it faulty as an instrument of arms control. Both sides have none the less observed its basic provisions. *Pravda* said the failure to ratify Salt 2 was only the beginning of a long attempt to "subvert and destroy everything achieved in the area of security by joint Soviet and American efforts in the 1970s." Washington had put up an "enticing advertising board" by pretending to favour disarmament while engaging in Star Wars research. The paper did not give a detailed account of alleged treaty violations by the US. Washington had "slandereously" accused Moscow of violations to cover up its own non-compliance. It dismissed American demands for effective verification as a "deceitful and cynical stand" to avoid new treaties and subvert existing ones.

Thatcher may visit Mideast to boost Husain initiative

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Speculation over a visit by Mrs Thatcher to the Middle East continued last night in spite of - or because of - a carefully worded Downing Street denial that anything had been fixed. Unofficial reports refer to Cairo and Amman as her destinations in the wake of recent visits to this country by respectively Egypt's President Mubarak and Jordan's King Husain. But the underlying connective link of such a trip would be the present Arab peace initiative in which both men are playing a prominent role. Having won American blessing for the idea of talks between the United States and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, King Husain would now like to obtain a broader international endorsement for his proposals from Britain and other states of the European Community. His chief difficulty is that of finding a Palestinian delegation

which carries credibility in the Arab world yet avoids - for the time being anyway - involving members of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). His ultimate objective is a series of talks between Israel and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian team. But Mr Yitzhak Shamir, Israel's Foreign Minister, repeated his Government's refusal to deal with the PLO or its sister organization, the Palestine National Council (PNC) when he too saw Mrs Thatcher in London last week. King Husain can afford to leave the Israelis until later. But he still needs to bring other countries on board his bandwagon now and Mrs Thatcher has similar difficulties over meeting members of the PLO. Downing Street has dismissed reports of her visiting the Middle East as speculation, and has said that Mrs Thatcher has only two foreign engagements in her diary this year - the European summit at Milan at the end of the month, and the

Commonwealth heads of government meeting in the Bahamas in October. But this falls far short of an outright denial, and is probably intended more to allay early criticism of the Prime Minister for planning yet another foreign trip when problems abound at home. If she goes to Cairo and Amman, interest will most clearly focus on whom she will see there. So far, Britain has strongly supported the Husain initiative to the extent of sharply reprimanding Mr Shamir last week of Israel's own need to make progress with moderate Arab leaders. Now the King would, no doubt, like her to meet leading Palestinians too in the hope that this would tempt other governments, including those of Arab Gulf States, like Saudi Arabia, to fall in behind. The more support he gets the less vulnerable his proposals will be to spoiling action by Syria.

Master of freighter held over ferry crash

From Robert Schuil, Amsterdam

The master of a West German freighter is being held on suspicion of drunkenness, carelessness and endangering life at sea in connection with Friday's incident off the Hook of Holland in which a ferry carrying hundreds of Britons was holed. The 51-year-old man, identified only by his initials P.T., was arrested on Saturday. A police spokesman said he was suspected of having been under the influence of alcohol at the time of the accident. After initial confusion, both North Sea Ferries, owner of the *Norland*, and Rotterdam police agree that there was no collision. The West German freighter, the *Sabine*, which was also leaving Rotterdam, was apparently on a collision course with the *Norland*, which was used as a troopship in the Falklands conflict, causing the ferry to make what was described by police as an "uncontrolled" manoeuvre. She is thought to have hit an underwater obstacle, which made a 15ft gash in her starboard side, and partially flooded the engine-room. She was carrying 629 passengers and was towed back to Rotterdam. The *Sabine* was undamaged and continued on its course, but at the request of police was ordered back to Rotterdam by her owners. All the British passengers returned home at the weekend, a spokesman for North Sea Ferries, said yesterday in Rotterdam. Most of the passengers were British, and had to leave behind cars and luggage. North Sea Ferries hope to be able to unload the *Norland* tomorrow after she has undergone emergency repairs. A preliminary inspection indicated that there appeared to be no damage on the car deck. If all goes according to schedule, the cars and luggage will be taken to Hull in another ship, so that passengers can collect them on Thursday morning. An initial report on the damage to the *Norland* is expected today. It could be two to three months before she is operational again, which could cause severe problems for North Sea Ferries during the holiday season, as its capacity on this route has been halved. The accident occurred on Friday evening, about 1 1/2 miles off the Dutch coast. Captain Derek Wharton sent out a distress call, and passengers were issued with life-jackets and asked to keep calm. "Panic lasted perhaps 10 seconds," one of the passengers said.

Arabs turn down 'massacre' inquiry

From Richard Dowden, Beirut

As a special session of the Arab League meeting in Tunis declined a Palestinian proposal for an inquiry into alleged massacres of Palestinians by Shie Amal fighters in the Beirut camps, the battles in and around the camps continued yesterday with no sign of a ceasefire to allow the wounded to be brought out. Sniping and rocket fire continued throughout the night leaving several dead and wounded. Five children were killed and eight other people were seriously wounded at Bourj el Barajneh camp on Saturday night by a mortar bomb fired by Amal attackers during negotiations to allow a United Nations food and water convoy into the camp.

The UN Relief and Works Agency convoy carrying 2,400 food packages as well as water and medical supplies was accompanied by the Austrian Ambassador, Dr Georg Znidaric, who said he saw bodies of the children as he entered the camp. He said the hospital inside the camp has more than 200 patients and was running low on supplies. There have been reports that the Palestinians, besieged in the camp for three weeks, have been reduced to eating cats off the streets. Dr Znidaric said that the Palestinians in the camp appeared determined to fight till the end but the strain was causing them to fight among themselves. He said he saw them

quarrelling violently over trivial things and threatening each other with weapons. There was no sign of cholera in the camp, but they were short of everything. Last week the convoy was turned back after Dr Znidaric and the UNrwa director were forced at gunpoint to enter the camp to try to secure the release of Amal prisoners. Yesterday Dr Znidaric said he had raised the issue of the prisoners with the Palestinians but had no mandate to negotiate their release. The Red Cross have been negotiating for a week to try to get into Bourj el Barajneh and Chatila, the other besieged camp, but so far without success.

Turks hold own poll in Cyprus

From Rasit Gardilek, Ankara

Some 93,000 Turkish Cypriot voters went to the polls in northern Cyprus at the weekend in elections which the Turkish Cypriot leader, Mr Denktas, was confident would give him another term as "president" of the "Turkish republic of northern Cyprus". After the collapse of a summit with President Kyprianou of Cyprus, in New York last January, Mr Denktas had taken steps to reinforce the Turkish enclave in the north, recognized as independent only by Turkey. These steps, he argued, were the only means of persuading the Greek Cypriots to agree to a federal solution based on the equality of the two communities. A constitution was adopted in a referendum last month and the election of the "president" will be followed by elections on June 23. Mr Denktas has repeatedly claimed steps would facilitate a federal settlement. He has pledged to resume negotiations after the elections. The "presidential" elections are between Mr Denktas, who has been describing himself as the "above-parties candidate", three independents, Mr Ozgur, former Prime Minister, M Ozgur of the left-wing Republican Turkish Party, and Mr Alpay Duduran, of the Socialist Liberation Party. Both Mr Ozgur and Mr Duduran were expected to do well. If none of the candidates gets 51 per cent, there will be a runoff next Sunday between the two with the highest number of votes. But Mr Denktas, supported by Turkey, was expected to gather enough votes in the first poll. After voting, Mr Denktas was reported to have said that the terms agreed by the Turkish side in the New York negotiations would not be forthcoming in future.

Britain and Albania in secret dialogue

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain has started secret talks with Albania in an attempt to settle the complicated wrangle over sunk warships and gold bullion which has separated the two countries for nearly 40 years. Britain is claiming more than £800,000 in compensation which Albania was ordered to pay after two British destroyers were sunk with heavy loss of life by mines in the Corfu Channel in 1946. But Albania, one of several countries with whom Britain does not have diplomatic relations, is insisting that it will not pay until Britain returns

more than £30m worth of gold bars seized by the Nazis during the Second World War and now kept in trust. It is not even as simple as that, because return of the bullion, which also involves banks in France and the United States, has been held up by a dispute over interest. The talks, which are at official level, began some time ago, before the recent death of the Stalinist Albanian dictator, Enver Hoxha. Britain made overtures with the aim of resuming diplomatic relations five years ago, through France.

Eight burned alive in Gujarat rioting

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

The seemingly endless spiral of violence in Gujarat continued yesterday with fresh incidents in the state's three main cities. Altogether around 160 people have been killed since the troubles started three months ago. In the state's foremost city, Mahatma Gandhi's Ahmedabad, eight people were feared burnt to death in one of several incidents of arson reported, even though a curfew was supposed to be keeping everyone off the streets. Six other men died in police firing. In Surat, too, where British India first began, a 27-year-old man was killed when police opened fire on a rioting mob in the walled area of the old city. In Baroda - now sometimes known as Vadodara - an indefinite curfew was clamped on a number of areas after four stabbing incidents in less than five hours. One man died and one of the victims was a woman hacked with a bill-hook. The troubles in the state began with an agitation in protest against places being reserved in higher education and in Government employ for people from the so-called backward castes. The agitation degenerated into inter-caste strife, and began to involve Hindu-Muslim battles too. A group of Gujarati intellectuals appealed yesterday to the

anti-reservationist leaders to call off their campaign, to allow several hundred thousand students to sit their annual examinations. The Sikh celebration of "genocide week" marking the first anniversary of the army seizure of the Golden Temple of Amritsar, ended yesterday without the major violence many had feared. A veteran leader of the ruling Congress (I) party, Mr Gulzar Lal Nanda, who twice acted as interim Prime Minister after the deaths of Pandit Nehru and Mr Lal Bahadur Shastri, attributed the peaceful conclusion to the wisdom of the Government's strong stand. But in a letter to Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, he also insisted that the Sikh political party, the Akali Dal, had earned goodwill by keeping its assurance that the week would be peaceful. The goodwill may not, however, be welcomed at present by the Akali leadership. Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, leader of the more moderate faction of the party, stated his claim yesterday to be considered the authentic leader of the Sikhs by addressing a meeting in the Golden Temple, which was reported to be better attended than the one held last week by the militant leaders of the "United Akali Dal" faction.

Crowds turn out to hear Mugabe

From Jan Raath, Harare

Zimbabwe's two main black political parties, Mr Robert Mugabe's Zanu(PF) and Mr Joshua Nkomo's Zapu, staged rallies in each other's power bases yesterday. The outcome will be cause for concern for Mr Nkomo. In Harare's National Sports Centre, a crowd of about 6,000 Zapu supporters gathered in expectation of hearing Mr Nkomo launch the opposition party's campaign for elections, which, for black voters, are due on July 1 and 2. The crowd was large for Zapu, particularly as there was no evidence that supporters from Matabeleland had been bussed to the capital to boost the attendance. Mr Nkomo did not attend. Mr Joseph Msika, the party's vice president, addressed the crowd instead, and said Mr Nkomo was "committed to other business". In Bulawayo, however, Barbourfields Stadium was packed to its 30,000 capacity, to hear Mr Mugabe winding-up a three-day campaign in west. The ruling party is aiming at boosting the majority it received in the 1980 elections by getting into the 15 Matabeleland constituencies where Zapu believes it is safe. Mr Mugabe spent most of the afternoon announcing his party's 80 candidates for the elections. Reporters said at least two notable MPs had been dropped. In Harare on Saturday, the Conservative Alliance of Zimbabwe led by Mr Ian Smith, the former Prime Minister of Rhodesia, announced a full list of 20 candidates for the white elections on June 27.

Chess replay a 'set-up'

Belgrade (AFP) - The decision of the International Chess Federation to replay the world chess championship in Moscow is the "worst of all possibilities", the challenger, Gary Kasparov, said in a newspaper interview here. "It has been set up by the ICF and the Soviet federation for Anatoly Karpov to retain the title at any price," he claimed.

Ministers freed

Cairo (Reuters) - Sudan has freed three former ministers detained after the April coup which ousted President Nimer, according to Egypt's Middle East News Agency. But the three, Ali Shammur (Information) Abdul-Salam Saleh Isa (Health) and Yusif Soliman (Energy) must stay in Khartoum.

Cape killings

Johannesburg - Another four people, all black, are reported to have been killed over the weekend in the strife-ridden Eastern Cape. Three men died in the Zwide township when a policeman's house in Kwazakele a man was murdered and his body set on fire.

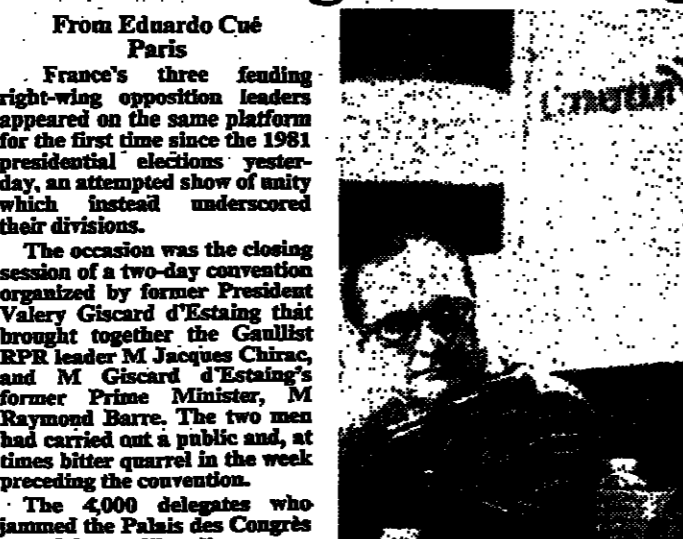
Ransom deaths

Nairobi - Twelve Ugandans were shot dead when they failed to pay a ransom of 10,000 shillings (£12) each to soldiers who abducted them from their village 18 miles north of Kampala. The newspaper *Uganda Post* reported that those who paid the ransom were freed.

Feuding French right wing's show of unity fails

From Eduardo Cue, Paris

France's three feuding right-wing opposition leaders appeared on the same platform for the first time since the 1981 presidential elections yesterday, an attempted show of unity which instead underscored their divisions. The occasion was the closing session of a two-day convention organized by former President Valery Giscard d'Estaing that brought together the Gaullist RPR leader, M Jacques Chirac, M Giscard d'Estaing's former Prime Minister, M Raymond Barre. The two men had carried out a public and, at times bitter quarrel in the week preceding the convention. The 4,000 delegates who jammed the Palais des Congrès to celebrate liberalism as a political ideology, which in the French context means less state intervention in both personal and economic affairs, could not be aware of the feud. One of the most heartfelt applause came when M Loick le Brua, a 20-year-old university student who shared the platform, exclaimed: "Let us stop the quarrel between the chiefs!" M Chirac referred to the disagreement between himself and M Giscard d'Estaing on the one hand and M Barre on the other as to whether the right should agree to govern under President Francois Mitterrand if it wins the legislative elections. "There is, it is true, a difference of opinion", M Chirac said. "Let us not transform it into a war of religions." M Barre, who strongly opposes any form of cooperation with the Socialists on the ground that such a move would



Former President Giscard d'Estaing flanked by M Jacques Chirac (left) and M Raymond Barre at their Paris convention.

weaken the Fifth Republic's institutions, remained implacable while applause resounded around him. For his part M Barre, who has called for continued economic austerity, reiterated his belief that France must follow the lead of its main trading

partners and strive for a lower level of inflation and controlled public spending and borrowing. In contrast, M Chirac's Rassemblement pour la République (RPR) party adopted last weekend what it termed a "shock" programme to relaunch the French economy, calling for a 40 billion francs (£3.3 billion) tax cut and a proportional reduction in Government spending. M Chirac touched upon the sharp differences between himself and M Barre. These came out into the open last week, when Mr Barre spoke about the economic proposals made by M Chirac's party as "demagogic and unrealistic." The convention approved a series of measures it said the right would enact if it returned to power next year. One of the more important among them was to increase jobs by liberalizing laws governing part-time and temporary work. The convention also called for the reduction of taxes and social expenditure. The platform urged the privatization of public enterprises beginning with those nationalized by the Socialists in 1982.

Europe steps up airlift to Sudan's starving

From Gill Lusk, Khartoum

The EEC has extended its airlift to the Sudan's famine-stricken western region of Darfur. The 10-day trial run by Belgian and West German airforce planes carrying medicine, seeds and high-protein foods, will continue for an indefinite period. British participation is expected soon. The crucial issue, however, remains the shipment of grain, of which over 200,000 tonnes are now piling up in Port Sudan, the country's only port. In an unprecedented emergency meeting last Friday the European Development Fund committee approved the allocation of 10 million European currency units for a blitz on the

country's decrepit railway system. Most of the cash will be used for spare parts, mainly British, for broken-down locomotives. The US Agency for International Development will also provide \$3 million for Sudan Railways. The EEC has brought in management support in an attempt to get virtually nonstop trains through to the southern Darfur provincial capital of Nyala, grain distribution point for the starving region. Aid workers say that 1,500 tonnes of grain per day, about three trainloads, are needed in Nyala, but a mere 200 tonnes is getting through. Leading article, page 11.

THE ARTS

Festival time: Paul Griffiths on Handel's Rodelinda at Aldeburgh, John Percival on Michael Clark's new ballet at Bath

New voices strive to enhance Britten's tradition Original energy

Three days of the Aldeburgh Arts Festival have passed without a note of Britten being heard: is this a record? If not, it is at least evidence of the success with which the festival has found new voices. Among living composers, Aldeburgh is fortunate to have built up relationships with Oliver Knussen and Colin Matthews, both of whom will be performing programmes later this week. Recent festivals have also been brightened by a distinguished visiting composer: Henri Dutilleul is due to be around next weekend. The opening days, though, were dominated by other regular institutions: Murray Perahia and the Britten-Pears School.

who died in 1685, have once more been pressed by Peter Aston. Handel's modest scoring might seem to make him a good choice for a student production, but of course the music is not at all easy to sing, and the title role of this opera, in particular, is fearfully exposed. It would be hard to cast well if one had the choice of the world's sopranos and not just of those gifted students who present themselves for the Snape course. Louise Camenz was one want to hear her in a part giving more opportunity to her lyrical fervour and slightly less demanding of virtuoso agility.

Handel is also, of course, by no means easy to stage, particularly in a concert hall which allows little scope for spectacle, illusion or visual irony, and on a budget which obliges one to borrow costumes from the ENO. Basil Coleman undoubtedly was wise in play

safe and concentrate on the negative virtues of simplicity and directness, even if this led to increasing quantities of uneasy laughter from the audience as the plot began to part company with anything like plausibility. There remained some pleasant and telling vocal performances. Besides Miss Camenz the counter-tenor Christopher Royall was affecting in distress as her absent husband, and the tenor Mark Tucker managed his breakdown stylishly as the rival prince. Rosalind Eaton in the mezzo lead had the advantage of a Rembrandtesque beauty, with a vocal demeanour to match.

The baritone Thomas Goetz and the counter-tenor Nicholas Clapton both sang confidently. Mr Clapton adding radiance and boldness in his decorated repeats. The orchestra, conducted by Stuart Bedford, boasted some delightful woodwind. There is a second performance on Friday. Meanwhile Mr Perahia's activities have begun with a chamber concert, given with his guests, the Vermeer Quartet. It was a strange programme they chose. The only work of great substance was Berg's Lyric Suite, performed with admirable fidelity to the metronome markings but with ensemble and intonation uncertain enough to breathe a haze over music that has to be utterly precise if its mysteriousness is to be achieved. Around this there were three movements from Mendelssohn's Op 81 and the Piano Quintet of Dvořák.

Never judge a dancer by his haircut. Michael Clark, the first of the Mohicans among Royal Ballet School former students, has himself and his small company disguised in a variety of outrageous wigs during most of his new work, which he calls (with the typographical eccentricity typical of him lately) not HAIR. There is also a great deal of transsexualism in the clothes and prostheses they wear, as well as in the headpieces.

Leigh Bowery's designs and the strong-powered rock music of The Fall help account for the noticeably young and far from staid elements this programme brought in to the old Theatre Royal at Bath. (William Mann's stewardship of the Bath Festival has certainly given that event a shot in the arm; there were even jugglers and a rock group performing in the square below the theatre when we left on Saturday night.)

The latter body was again responsible for the festival opera, which this year is Rodelinda (Aldeburgh is certainly not immune from treacherous fevers: quite apart from the big three, the claims of George Jeffrey's

who died in 1685, have once more been pressed by Peter Aston. Handel's modest scoring might seem to make him a good choice for a student production, but of course the music is not at all easy to sing, and the title role of this opera, in particular, is fearfully exposed.

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Concert

Wayward vision that totally convinces

LSO/Abbado Barbican

This was a remarkable concert in many ways, but most of all in bringing together two young Titans, Ivo Pogorelich and Viktoria Mullova. No matter that they played works which would not normally go out of one's way to hear yet again, for the freshness they brought to their performances, simply demanded rapt attention.

his hands. Tchaikovsky's First Piano Concerto once more sounded like the boldly innovative piece it is. Pogorelich had no concern, for example, for presenting the first movement as a unity, instead concentrating on elemental impact, while in the central movement he built phrases from individual gestures almost in the baroque manner.

glittering arpeggios that other pianists see as opportunities for virtuosic display were here relegated to a hushed, beautifully controlled decorative role. Daring, but it worked.

In both works Claudio Abbado skillfully accommodated the whims of the soloists, quite an achievement in Pogorelich's case. The London Symphony Orchestra found themselves in good shape, too, the strings playing with particularly striking confidence, as could be heard more prominently in the works that framed the concertos. And what were they? Ravel's *Ma Mère l'oye*, *Pavane pour une infante défunte*, and *Rapsodie espagnole*. As I said, a remarkable concert.

Stephen Pettitt

Dance in London

La Fille mal gardée Covent Garden

It is said that, after the American dancer Ray Bolger had performed a play solo in Boston, a member of the audience went backstage and said: "You were so funny, it was all we could do not to laugh out loud." I doubt that such misplaced politeness explains why one heard plenty of applause - but not much laughter - during the Royal Ballet's performance of *La Fille mal gardée* on Friday.

Stephen Jeffenes, as the thwarted but eventually happy lover, cannot be blamed for the audience's lack of responsiveness. They not only dance well individually (Jeffenes's pirouettes were especially impressive), but their acting is as bright and fresh as their dancing, and they go well together, bringing out one another's best points.

But the other leading parts were slightly done, excepting only Leslie Edwards as fat, jovial old Thomas. Brian Shaw makes Widow Simone stolid and severe, even when she capers in the clog dance or

protects her little chick of a daughter with a Swan Queen's extravagant gesture. Garry Grant's Alain is more clown than simpleton, mugging away but sadly smudging the steps of his big solo. He acts too much with his face, not enough with his body.

It would be interesting to know why it is that, whenever we have a small dancer in the leading part, some nitwit in the organization almost invariably casts the tallest group of girls available to play her friends. Also why Derek Rencher in the tiny role of the notary (nothing



Philippe Giraudeau as the voluble Duc de Nemours

Theatre

The Princess of Cleves ICA

Pseud will always speak to pseud, hallooing one to another across the trackless wastes of their enclosed, barren mind-landscape, and in an ideal world that would be that. In practice, however, they all too frequently turn their attention outwards.

moiselle de Chartres) change in and out of costume, shift mid-tech furniture around the stage, switch very advanced table lamps on and off, play the light of a slide projector over one another, pose on a lipstick-pink staircase, lounge in bentwood reclines, play table football and with toy soldiers. Occasionally a specious kind of eroticism threatens to subvert the stupefying inanity of the dialogue - but the danger soon passes and we are back with exchanges like: "Why shouldn't I talk so much?" "Why not?" "It's depressing."

John Percival

of Tim Albury's production one can only say that he appears to have drilled his cast to a level of proficiency. Of the players themselves it must be said that they appear to enjoy taking part in this charade: perhaps for them it represents something of a holiday from drama.

Martin Cropper

Television Reality reassured

Melvyn Bragg last night was where BBC2's *Arena* was last November: grappling with the vision of Francis Bacon. Mr Bacon, now 75 and, said LWT's *South Bank Show*, widely held to be the world's greatest living painter, has the signal honour of a second major retrospective at the Tate.

As the wine flowed both were able to appreciate profundities denied us, perhaps for want of appropriate lubrication. We learnt, however, that Mr Bacon hated his face and had no time for fantasy.

Arena found him elusive. He was talking to his friend, the art critic David Sylvester. They had obviously chewed everything over before and, consequently, their conversation came out coded. Mr Bragg's programme was more enlightening though not more enlightening. Possibly the paintings say everything.

"To me you are real. There you are, Melvyn Bragg: you are absolutely real," he said at one point to his interviewer who, in the circumstances, might have been glad of the reassurance.

Mr Bacon thanked God for never having been to an art school and obligingly, and not always approvingly, commented on some of his paintings, agreed that what he was about was deforming and re-forming reality, dismissed Jackson Pollock and Mark Rothko and anyone who did not like his work.

Two programmes with subtitles on a Saturday evening may mark a trend which will result in Channel 4 viewers being recognizable by a constant, vertical movement of the eyeballs.

He thought modern man wanted sensation. He sought a concentration of images, a deeply ordered chaos. He liked to work in the latter and the evidence of his Chelsea studio confirmed this. His paintings might be seen as horrific, he admitted, but he could not compete, in that respect, with what went on every day.

This story of a policeman's fight against the Mafia in Sicily is infinitely superior to the innumerable American efforts. The characterization is perceptive and the plot intelligent.

He believed in nothing. "We are born, we die, that's it. I just drift. My life is just a drifting life of going from bar to bar and drinking." Mr Bragg drifted with him to a restaurant, a bar and a gambling club where Mr Bacon plays roulette because "it is the silliest game there is".

Dennis Hackett

Lynne Truss meets Terry Johnson (below), who turns from writing to direction with *The Woolgatherer*, opening at the Lyric, Hammersmith, tomorrow

Direct responses



he has at last been entrusted with a play for the Lyric, Hammersmith, studio theatre, which opens tomorrow. At Birmingham University, where he studied drama under David Edgar, he spent a great deal of time directing. "In fact writing came about only because, when you're waiting to make it in the theatre, you spend a lot of time sitting at home, and then you do what comes to hand. What came to hand was writing. Perhaps if I hadn't had that facility I would have tackled the world rather more strongly." On balance he

does not think he could have directed his own plays: he sees the director's role as working backwards from the action, exploring the histories of the characters in a way that is hard to combine with being their creator.

The play he has been exploring for the Lyric is *The Woolgatherer* by the American writer William Mastrosimone, a two-hander involving a smart-talking truck driver and a neurotic girl who serves at a five-and-dime. It is a challenge: an intense, fast-talking play which has to be located very specifically in the world of the Italian American. "We have to tap that strain of aggressive, fast response, that violent comeback to jibes and insults," Johnson admits to feeling very comfortable with American idioms. "I think we're all getting more keyed into American styles of speech. For myself, I sometimes have to anglicize my own writing, because I find myself slipping into it. I find it perfectly natural. Seventy-five per cent of the television I have been fed is American."

The Woolgatherer is a challenge for another reason. Mastrosimone's reputation in Britain is nothing to shout about.

The only play so far seen here was *Extremities*, which dealt with rape and involved Helen Mirren in waving a hammer at a would-be attacker whom she had probably overpowered. *Extremities* got what are euphemistically known as "mixed" reviews, so, not surprisingly, Johnson emphasizes that *The Woolgatherer* has very little in common with it. "It's about male-female assault but of a non-physical kind. *Extremities* was written in about three weeks in response to something that happened; *The Woolgatherer* is the product of a much more sane writing process. What first attracted me to it is that it is very funny, but funny - as you grow to realize - for all the wrong reasons."

What will happen next in Johnson's career is anybody's guess. He is determined to get a film made of *Unsuitable for Adults* before its subject (the pubroom cabaret entertainers of the early 1980s) gets out of date. Film attracts him a great deal. *Extremities* has been an inspiration to him, as has David Hare's *Wetherby*, which he says can be contrasted with the Hare-Brenton *Pravda* at the National to show how film can convey much more satisfactorily than theatre a stylistically consistent vision.

"Working in film requires megalomania: it's only going to be successful if what is produced is one man's idea. That's the reverse of the theatre, where the point is to work out what everybody wants. *Wetherby* is far superior to *Pravda* in its wholeness. Everything is undeniably correct."

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"ONE OF THE BEST PLAYS OF 1984... AND ONE OF THE MOST THRILLINGLY INDIVIDUAL OF THE LAST DECADE" SUNDAY TIMES RSC MERMAID THEATRE

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Mr Palumbo goes back to square one

Bryan Appleyard looks at the next move in one man's 23-year bitter battle to build his dream development in the City of London

"Even the Germans did not succeed in doing the damage you propose to do", wrote Major Edward N. Finlason to Peter Palumbo. "From your name you sound like a foreigner and possibly a Jew."

Palumbo's 23-year battle to build an office block and square designed by Mies van der Rohe in the heart of the City of London did not show the English at their best. All the nation's festering resentment against modern architecture came crashing down around his head. The bitterness of the assault was extraordinary. Even in the most respectable quarters, dark hints were dropped that he was, somehow, not quite right.

There was, for example, his dog, an amiable albatross called Jute that accompanies him almost everywhere. His bowl of water constantly occupies about one square foot of some very expensive real estate in Palumbo's City office. This mild eccentricity was seen by some howling conservationists as yet another sign that something sinister was afoot.

In fact it was while taking Jute for his lunchtime constitutional that his master bought an evening paper at the corner of Walbrook Street. That was how he first discovered that his battle had been lost. Patrick Jenkin, the Secretary of State for the Environment, had turned down the Mansion House Square scheme.

"The dog got his pee", murmurs Palumbo, "but I didn't get my building."

So the end of his ambitions was signalled by a leak - "I don't claim any privileges but I do think they could at least have told me 10

minutes before it hit the newspapers".

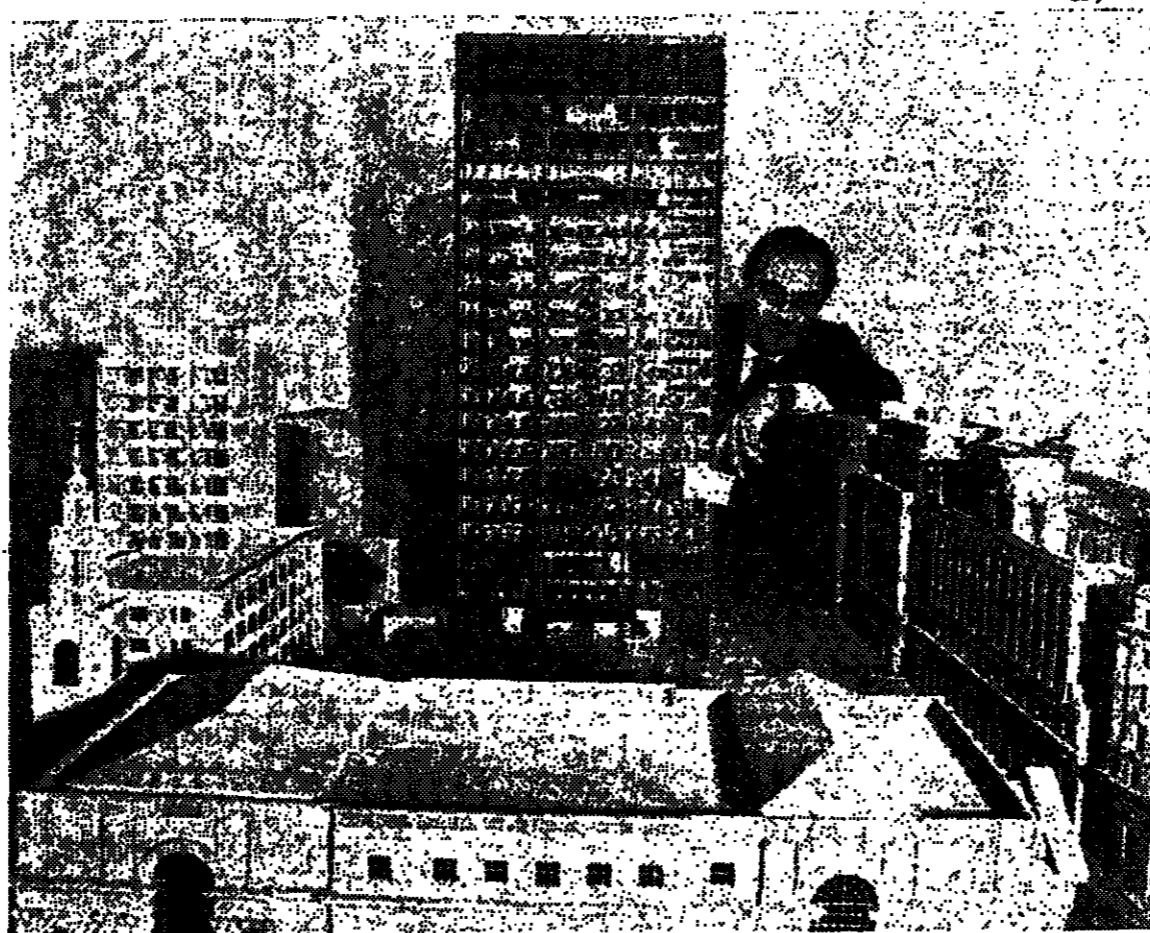
It was an appalling blow for a man whose adult life - he is 50 - has been devoted to realizing this one dream of building the last masterpiece of one of this century's handful of great architects. He had accumulated 13 freeholds and 347 leaseholds to assemble the site and he had received a complete go-ahead in 1968 only to see it reversed 17 years later.

But, with the final public inquiry during the intense heat of last summer, Palumbo discovered what he was up against. He became a major public figure, having spent his previous 48 years more or less incognito as the owner of a substantial private property company with a peculiar obsession.

Now he faced a set-piece battle between conservationists and the modern architects, a battle he saw no reason to fight.

"For a start the conservationists seem to me to be on very strong ground when they point to what has been done since the war", he says. "Our cities have been blighted by bad buildings. But I do believe it's important to look forward and to learn from the lessons of the past. We are, after all, living in 1985 and tomorrow is tomorrow and not yesterday. Nowadays there is an unhealthy obsession with the past which is putting off the necessity to live in the future."

"There is never any balance. There is a polarization between one position and another, the pendulum never seems to swing to the centre."



Towering disappointment: Palumbo with his £250,000 model of the rejected plan for Mansion House square

True to his creed, Palumbo himself is now trying to look to the future - with caution. The last 18 months have made him a more guarded man. It was during that period that ill-judged words to a journalist about the director of the Tate Gallery resulted in Palumbo having to stand down as chairman of the gallery's trustees, one more trauma to add to his problems with Mies. So he is not saying much about what is to happen to the site.

"It would be most sensible financially to redevelop completely because the buildings there have been declared dangerous on three separate occasions. I've spent £1 million trying to prop them up, but the fact is they are totally decayed and to make any sense at all of refurbishment would mean taking at least half of them down and rebuilding replicas. That's OK if you're dealing with a Nash terrace."

The buildings in question are in fact mediocre Victorian speculative developments. And they can be pulled down in spite of their listing. Jenkin's report specifically does not

rule out redevelopment "if there were acceptable proposals for replacing the existing buildings". And the report added: "He does not consider that the buildings are of such overriding importance that their preservation should outweigh all other considerations."

The remark signals clearly enough that bloody-minded conservation is not receiving Government approval via the minister's decision and it puts the ball firmly back in Palumbo's court. He can refurbish or he can redevelop. The site will, however, be different.

He would have only acquired the freehold of the Bank of New Zealand at 1, Queen Victoria Street if the Mies scheme had gone ahead. So now that street will not be diverted and its line will form the south side of the new site with Cheapside on the north. At this point he has made no decisions, but it is clear that redevelopment, the option he evidently prefers, would mean that he would be able to bestow one of the most significant architectural commissions in the world.

"The business has to make a major policy decision about what to do. The objective is to get it right. The minister's remarks hold the key to the future. But we have to evaluate the 150 pages of the planning inquiry inspector's report as well as the minister's remarks, and we have to take soundings in as many places as possible. "But I'm not interested in doing something just because it's expedient. For example, I'm not interested in putting up something by... I'd better not name names."

Within a month he expects to announce his overall intentions and possibly even the name of an architect - his only hints in that area are that he must have "an international reputation". He may or may not be British. In other words Palumbo's battles with the conservationists may not be over. Mies may be dead but his successor is waiting to be appointed.

But at least the dark insinuations about Palumbo's power in high

COUNTDOWN TO CONTROVERSY

1968: Public exhibition of the £25 million scheme at the Royal Exchange. Lord Holford, who worked on the design with Mies van der Rohe, agrees that the plan is controversial.

1969: The Court of Common Council agrees in principle to the scheme, but decides not to grant planning permission at this stage, thus effectively blocking the plan. The GLC, supported by the Royal Fine Art Commission, says that the tower should be no taller than 200ft. Mies van der Rohe dies.

1982: After 20 years spent acquiring the site, Mr Peter Palumbo submits a new planning application. By July, he owns 12 of the 13 freeholds and 945 of the 348 households on the site. Building costs are now estimated at £30 million.

In September, the City's Court of Common Council rejects the scheme. 1984: Save Britain's Heritage publishes an alternative scheme which would retain the nine listed buildings and refurbish them. In a speech to architects at Hampton Court Palace in May, the Prince of Wales describes the tower as "another giant glass stump better suited to downtown Chicago than the City of London".

1985: Inspector's report to Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, recommends against the scheme. The Times discloses in April that the Prime Minister is taking a keen interest in his decision. She denies that she is interfering (which would be illegal), although agrees she has inspected the model and plans.

places may have been put to rest. While the Secretary of State was pondering, it was suggested that the Prime Minister was becoming unduly involved and that Palumbo was exerting unconstitutional pressure.

"Oh I've had all sorts of allegations from being a latter day Rastafarian to propagating Legionnaire's Disease - and this thing about the Prime Minister. I did have dinner with her twice in March '84 and March '85 - but there were 70 people present the first time and 30 the second."

"We did talk but on the general topic of technological progress. The only oblique reference to the scheme was when we both agreed that planning inquiries took too long and came up with no decisions. Anyway, if I was exerting pressure it hasn't done me much good."

But meanwhile one small part of Mies lives on. Over the past five years a company called Presentation Unit has been painstakingly assembling a breathtaking model of the scheme which had sat in its unfinished condition in Palumbo's office. It had cost over £250,000 and featured a hydraulic system to raise its level so that viewers could observe the full effect at street level.

It had been transported to Oxford to undergo wind-tunnel tests which disproved one criticism of the scheme - that it would produce a square subject to howling gales. And a few weeks ago Jenkin took it to the Department of the Environment for closer examination. Palumbo is now having the finishing touches applied, but already finds it is being fought over by museums convinced it represents a major piece of modern art history.

This leaves the office empty but for a desk and, of course, elements of his superb collection of art. One wall is dominated by a late Picasso next to which is a piece of 15th-

century alabaster. There is a portrait of his father by Oscar Kokoschka, an Anthony Caro table sculpture and a 4th-century Roman glass vase. A William Scott painting faces two Frank Lloyd Wright stained-glass windows and there is a large Hamish Fulton photograph plus, of course, a portrait of Mies.

It all makes a fairly obvious point which Patrick Jenkin was in no position to take on board - that the radically new can coexist with the beautifully old, that Mies, Lutyens, Wren and Dance (architect of the Mansion House) had more in common than could ever be encapsulated by the anodyne phrase "harmony with the surroundings". "I think," says Palumbo, "that Mies's proposals will always have a meaning as long as there are concepts like truth and dignity and order and serenity and those sort of things. We don't always accept that nowadays."

The story of Palumbo's defeat is the story of the triumph of mediocrity - not just the mediocrity of the Victorian buildings he aspired to demolish, but also the mediocrity of so much British post-war architecture which convinced large, articulate parts of the population that modern architecture was an unqualified disaster. He tried to build a good, modern building when the country seemed to have decided there was no such thing and had opted for a Disneyland accumulation of pixieish styling and supposedly interesting detail.

Palumbo's favourite remark of Mies's is: "I don't want to be interesting. I want to be good". Unless some way is found of winning the second battle, which now seems inevitable, the Secretary of State will have condemned us to being merely "interesting" or, if you prefer, a floating museum with some very third-rate exhibits.

Victoria and Albert Museum

Welcoming a dicey game back on board

The dice shaker rattles and spills its cubes on to the board. One player smiles and moves two counters swiftly. His opponent just looks incredulous. "He threw six-two. Would you believe it? Anything else and he's dead, but he threw six-two."

The unmistakable whining sounds of backgammon's unlucky losers are back in town, for the great backgammon revival has begun, the game where even the most skilful can be ruined by malevolent dice.

Tomorrow night, L'Equipe Anglaise hosts what is hoped will be London's biggest backgammon tournament for many years. From 9pm until the early hours of the morning, the calculations of the players and vagaries of the dice will see all

but the most successful contestants waving goodbye to their £100 entry fees. The ultimate winner, who may not be known until next week, will go home £5,000 the richer.

There are signs that backgammon is returning to the heady days of the 1970s. For a few years it was the game of the stars. Omar Sharif and Roger Moore rubbed shoulders at the tables with racing driver James Hunt and financier Jim Slater. Everyone who was anyone seemed to be a backgammon fanatic and fortunes were made and lost on the roll of a dice. Then as inexplicably as it had arrived, the boom faded.

The rules are as simple as ludo, the strategy as potentially complex as chess. One name strongly associated with the

William Hartston on the British revival of the glamorous game of backgammon

revival is that of Victor Lownes, former Playboy chief, now founder and owner of Stock Club in the King's Road. Victor Lownes is a survivor of the glamorous backgammon years. He happily reminisces of the time he sent a cheque for half a million dollars to the United States Inland Revenue Service to cover tax on his backgammon winnings.

"I used to play with some rich Arabs and Greeks", he casually explains. The IRS are reported to have dropped their collective jaws at this unprecedented gesture from an honest gambler.

Stocks has become London's backgammon centre, with up to 50 players competing in regular Monday night tournaments. The £10 entry fees all go into a prize fund topped up by an additional £100 from the club itself. Half the total will go to the tournament winner, the remainder distributed among those taking second to fourth places.

The tournament atmosphere is informal, the backgammon boards jostling for space among the tables of the restaurant. Diners will come up to greet their friends and have a chat during the most serious of games. Despite this generally casual air, the games are fiercely contested, especially in the last few rounds.

The weekly games are designed for the backgammon enthusiast rather than professional gamblers hoping to make a living from the game. There may no longer be so many rich Greeks and Arabs around, ready to lose huge sums, but there is still money to be made on the international circuit. There are perhaps half a dozen successful professional backgammon players in this country, with up to two dozen more who scrape an existence from their winnings.

The itinerant professional can have little to complain about in the choice of venues for tournaments. While the world's best chess players shuttle between such places as Moscow and Hastings, the backgammon professionals are enjoying themselves at St Tropez, St Moritz, Venice, Gstaad or the Bahamas, all of which have annual tournaments. And between tournaments, the lucky backgammon hawks have their personal "pigeons", who can be relied upon to contribute generously in privately arranged games.

On the official circuit, the major event on the calendar is undoubtedly the world championship, held annually in

Monte Carlo. Organized by Lewis Deyong, a former world title runner-up, now a professional organizer and backgammon entrepreneur, Monte Carlo is a grand festival of the game, with some 500 players and \$400,000 distributed in prizes for the various events.

Game of skill or too much a matter of luck? The Gaming Board classes backgammon as an "equal chance game" ruled by the dice and therefore neither to be promoted in a public place nor organized for profit; the game also suffers from the lack of a national coordinating body. Thus backgammon players must seek their opponents either in private or in registered clubs.

The best backgammon players see the game as far more than an exercise in the applied probability theory of dice throws. They claim to possess that gambler's instinct which can detect an opponent's weakness and sense his fear. They have little admiration for those who spend hours studying the probabilities and learning all the odds, trying to play like a perfectly programmed machine.

Yet when, in 1979, a machine did challenge a top human player, the machine came out on top. Dr Hans Berliner, a noted chess master and chess programmer, had identified qualities in the game of backgammon which seemed

particularly appropriate to computing techniques. When his program was ready, he issued a challenge to world backgammon champion Luigi Villa for a £5,000 match. To preclude any allegations of cheating, a human was delegated to roll the dice for the computer.

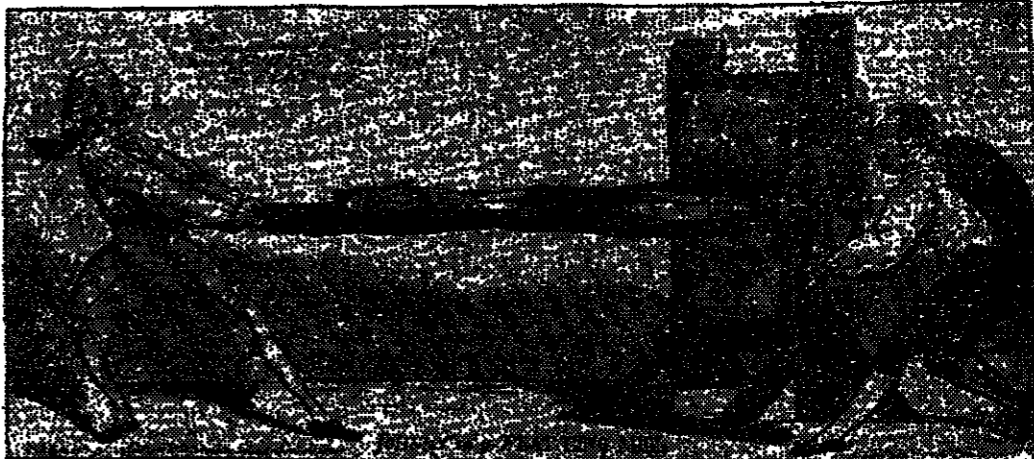
The encounter started inauspiciously for the machine when the robot, wheeled on to the stage to move the counters around the board, nudged its dramatic entrance and became tangled up in the curtain, but thereafter, everything went right for it. Watched by an ever-increasing crowd, Luigi Villa was resoundingly beaten. What made it almost more painful was the knowledge, as demonstrated by detailed analysis after the game, that while Villa had played almost perfectly, the computer had made a clutch of errors. Its victory had been due in the main to luck.

In the words of Lewis Deyong: "The dice just love certain people and hate others". It is precisely this irrationality which gives backgammon much of its infuriating charm and keeps the losers so full of hope.

Further details of the tournaments mentioned may be obtained from: L'Equipe Anglaise, 21-23 Duke Street, London W1 01-486; 828/830 Stock Club, 107 King's Road, London SW3 (01-351 3461).



Luck or judgement? A player throws the dice



The squeeze: William Pitt puts John Bull through the tax mill in 1796

The Prince of Wales will have the chance this week to enjoy a glimpse of what is by rights a part of his royal inheritance. The story begins 200 years ago when the then Prince of Wales (the one who became Prince Regent and George IV) began ordering caricature prints from Colnaghi's. Over the next 40 years, a period that happened to be the golden age of English caricature, he amassed nearly 10,000, including some depicting himself up to no good.

It is not known whether Queen Victoria peeked at her embarrassing uncle's instructive collection, but it survived at Windsor Castle all through her reign, and beyond. Then in 1920 George V, unamused, quietly sold it to the American Library of Congress, where it lay almost forgotten until last year.

On Wednesday at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, nearly 50 items from the royal hoard will go on show with another 200 caricatures and related works in an exhibition entitled "English Caricature: 1620 to the Present Day".

Most of the exhibits are from American collections, but Richard Godfrey, the chief organizer of the exhibition, is an English print specialist. He was until recently doing research at the Yale Center for British Art, and it was there that the show first went on, followed by visits to the Library of Congress itself and to Canada's national gallery in Ottawa. Knowing that one of the few interests Prince Charles has in common with his famous predecessor is an enthusiasm for caricature, Godfrey sent him a catalogue.

If the prince has time to drop in, he may notice a print etched by Thomas Rowlandson in the early 1780s, when (in Horace Walpole's words) the Prince of Wales "passed the nights in the lowest debaucheries".

It shows him slumped drunkenly in a brothel in the company of his madams, two bare-breasted girls and an ever-drunk Charles James Fox. This is probably a unique copy of the print - kept after the prince had bought and destroyed the rest of the issue.

Spitting images down the centuries

In the recent Spitting Image television series. Indeed, there are four faces in the group that could serve for Mrs Thatcher, Nigel Lawson, Princess Anne and Prince Andrew.

The Spitting Image team has been brought into the V & A act. The exhibition emphatically goes "to the present", with a non-stop video show of Spitting Image programmes, complete with irreverent scenes of royal life. One print in the exhibition that makes Spitting Image look kindly is the great James Gillray's *Monstrous Crew of 1787*, in which George III, Queen Charlotte and the Prince of Wales are hideous images of avarice devouring John Bull's wealth.

The exhibition will continue until September 1. Next Saturday the V & A is offering a free all-day seminar on caricature, at which the speakers will include Richard Godfrey, Gerald Scarle and Professor Sir Ernst Gombrich, director emeritus of the Warburg Institute.

This immaculately preserved etching is from the collection of Horace Walpole, now in New York Public Library. So is the saucy *Top and Tail*, of a woman wearing nothing but stiletto heels and a vast structure of hair that makes the wildest punk look unambitious.

The exhibition takes the story right through the great Victorians, giving us the original drawings for Bruce Bairnsfather's *If you know of a better 'ole*, go to it and E. M. Bateman's *Getting a Document Stamped at Somerset House*, and through Will Dyson, David Low and Osbert Lancaster to such youngsters as Steadman and Scarle culminating neatly in Mark Boxer's *Prince of Wales*.

The riches of the "lost" royal collection would alone make a dozen exhibitions. Of its vast total, nearly 1,000 items are not in the British Museum's caricature collection, even though that contains more than 17,000. Enthusiasts are beginning to dream now of bringing even a few hundred back across the water for a London exhibition, perhaps in the Queen's Gallery beside Buckingham Palace. "That would be wonderful", Richard Godfrey says. Perhaps Prince Charles, caricature-lover, could arrange something.

John Wardroper

John Wardroper is the author of *The Caricatures of George Cruikshank* (Gordon Fraser, £15).

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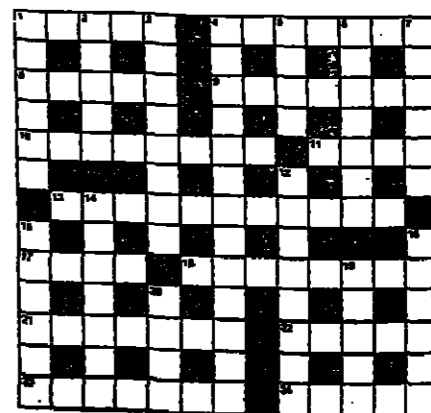
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MONDAY PAGE

Springsteen - the reluctant hero

Alan Franks reports on the American rock singer and writer now touring Britain, a star who is fighting to keep faith with his fans



If the price of fame is that you have to be isolated from the people you write for, that's too high a price to pay

Whoever turned President Reagan on to Bruce Springsteen deserves a campaign medal. It was an inspired, if unlikely, move to draw his attention to the (not always audible) words of the New Jersey rock star's songs. It was unlikely because Springsteen has been singing for a decade and a half of the blues of blue collar workers in recession-hit America - troubles for which the bulk of his young audience would blame the President. It was inspired because running through the lyrics is a clear call for a return to the solid old values of home and family.

honest, hardworking, American rock 'n' roll. The trouble is that no one seems to have a bad word for him - not his intensely loyal E Street band, which has been with him right from the early days in small New Jersey clubs, nor the producers with whom he has worked; nor, indeed, the fickle music press, which now seems to accept almost universally that he is simply the greatest rock singer ever.

His current progress through Europe, culminating in three Wembley concerts early next month, is on a papal scale. For a man so given to accessibility, the irony is that he is only visible, when not on stage, through a forest of aides and escorts ushering him into limbo which whisk him off to secret addresses.

One of his most celebrated songs, "Born in the USA", is a painful anthem giving voice to the suffering of America's Vietnam veterans. He regards them as the nation's forgotten people, still scarred by their experiences but without the consolation of heroic status.

"I don't know if anyone could imagine what their particular experience is like", he says. "I don't think I could, you know? I think you had to live through it. But when you think about all the young men and women who died in Vietnam, and how many died since they've been back - surviving the war, and coming back and not surviving - you have to think that at the time the country took advantage of their selflessness. There was a moment when they were just really generous with their lives."

That war sparks particularly poignant memories for Springsteen since the drummer in his first band, a carefree and high-spirited youth called Bart Haines, lost his life there.

Springsteen was born on September 23, 1949 in the small town of Freehold in the middle of New Jersey. Even in those days it was the kind of community which inspires in its young the appetite for escape - the kind of fantasies of which such albums as *Darkness on the Edge of Town* are filled.

In chronicling the condition of small-town America, with his vivid sense of place and plain, if poetic, imagery Springsteen has become the inheritor of two quite distinct traditions - the song journalism of writers like Woody Guthrie and

to go to college and I didn't really fit in. I went to a real narrow-minded school where people gave me a lot of trouble and I was hounded off the campus - I just looked different and acted different, so I left. And I remember being on that bus, me and a couple of guys in my band, and the rest of the bus was 60 per cent - probably 70 per cent - black guys from Asbury Park.

"I remember thinking, what makes my life, or my friends' lives more expendable than that of somebody who's goin' to school? It didn't seem right. And it was funny because my father, he was in World War Two and he was the type that was always sayin', 'Wait till the army gets you. They're gonna get that hair off of you. I can't wait.

They're gonna make a man outta you. "We were really goin' at each other in those days. I remember I was gone for three days, and when I came back I went in the kitchen and my folks were there, and they said, 'Where you been?' and I said, 'Well, I had to go take my physical.' And they said, 'What happened?' and I said, 'Well, it didn't take me.' My father sat there and he didn't look at me, he just looked straight ahead. And he said, 'That's good. I'll never forget that. Never.'"

It is a story which was enacted in the homes of thousands of young Americans during the draft years, and thus one of the various experiences with which Springsteen's audience can closely identify. It brings us back to that inevitable

isolation which engulfs a star. He insisted that he was not going to succumb to the process which he considers so distanced Presley and, latterly, Michael Jackson, from their fans.

"I believe that the life of a rock 'n' roll band will last as long as you look down into the audience and can see yourself, and your audience looks up at you and can see themselves - and as long as those reflections are human, realistic ones. The biggest gift that your fans can give you is just treatin' you like a human being, because anything else dehumanizes you. And that's one of the things that has shortened the life spans, both physically and creatively, of some of the best rock 'n' roll musicians - that cruel isolation. If the price of fame is that you have to

be isolated from the people you write for, then that's too high a price to pay.

"One of the things that was always on my mind to do was to maintain connections with the people I'd grown up with, and the sense of the community where I came from. That's why I stayed in New Jersey. The danger of fame is in forgetting, or being distracted. You see, it happens to so many people. Elvis's case must have been tremendously difficult. Because, I feel the difference between selling a million records and selling three million records... I can feel a difference out on the street. The type of fame that Elvis had, and that I think Michael Jackson has, the pressure of it, and the isolation that it seems to require has got to be really painful. I wasn't gonna let that happen to me. I wasn't gonna get to a place where I said, 'I can't go here. I can't go to this bar. I can't go outside.' For the most part I do basically what I've always done. I'll walk into a club, and people will just say hi, and that's it. And I'll get up and play."

Another irony is, of course, that he should have become the toast of the political right. For it is not just Reagan, while canvassing last year in New Jersey, who has invoked his work. George Will, the highly conservative columnist, praised a recent Washington concert to the skies. It is not entirely reciprocal, as Springsteen's £16,000 gift to the Northumberland and Durham Miners Support Group clearly demonstrates.

Springsteen is perhaps too politic, or too American, to scorn his President's alliance, but he has his own way of explaining the phenomenon. "I think what's happening now is that people want to forget. There was Vietnam, there was Watergate, there was Iran - we were beaten, we were hustled and then we were humiliated. I think people got a need to feel good about the country they live in. But what's happening, I think is that that need - which is a good thing - is gettin' manipulated and exploited. As you saw in the Reagan re-election ads on TV - you know: 'It's morning in America'. And you say, well, it's not morning in Pittsburgh. It's not morning above 125th Street in New York. It's midnight and, like, there's a bad moon risin'. And that's why when Reagan mentioned my name in New Jersey, I felt it was another manipulation and I had to dissociate myself from the President's kind words."

As Patrick Humphries, co-author of a critical biography of the singer, suggests, Springsteen keeps harking

back to his father's generation in general and the man in particular. This is not merely because he was the dominant influence on Springsteen's adolescence but because "the image of the American Dream was becoming apparent to Bruce in the example of his father - not the Dream realized, but instead the Dream frustrated and forgotten. He watched his father, like many of his generation, and has never let himself forget what he saw. The themes of many of his later songs were already forming in his youthful mind."

With the exception of Dylan, there has never been an American rock singer more able to embody, in some very literary lyrics, the dark side of society. For every "Pink Cadillac" there is another "Wreck on the Highway". When asked what he really thinks of his most eminent fan, and of the nation which that man governs, the reply comes across as a study in diplomatic dissidence: "Well, I don't know him. But I think he represents a very mythic, very seductive image, and it's an image that people want to believe in."

"I think there's always been a nostalgia for mythical America, for

There's always been a nostalgia for a mythical America

some period in the past when everything was just right. And I think the President is the embodiment of that for a lot of people. This is a very mythical presidency. I don't know if he's a bad man. But I think there's a large group of people in this country whose dreams don't mean that much to him, who just get indiscriminately swept aside.

"I guess my view of America is of a real big-hearted country, real compassionate. But the difficult thing out there right now is that the social consciousness that was a part of the 1960s has become, like, old-fashioned or something. You go out, you get your job, and you try to make as much money as you can and have a good time on the weekend. And that's considered okay."

Adapted from *Rolling Stone* magazine.

Blinded by the Light, a biography of Bruce Springsteen by Patrick Humphries and Chris Hunt is published next month by Plexus (£6.95).

The veterans of Vietnam are the nation's forgotten people

Presley, or the peculiar abuses of a Rob Dylan, and certainly none of the embarrassing friends of a Mr Sinatra. At 35, when many stars are lolling into decadence, with panaches starting to slip over belts, Springsteen is superbly fit, with the taut and muscular figure of an athlete in peak condition. Which is, in a sense, exactly what he has to be in order to give nightly concerts which go on for three and a half, even four hours, starting on a climax and continuing without let-up.

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Pregnancy as a corporate disease

Rennie Fritchie, a woman widely experienced in the training of women managers, went to the United States recently as a visiting fellow sponsored by the German Marshall Fund, and she wasn't as impressed with the American view of women and work as she had expected to be.

It seems that American companies have taken Professor Higgins's lament, "Why can't a woman be more like a man?", seriously and have spent a lot of time ensuring that, in the office, at least, she becomes a pretty good approximation of one. The trouble starts when the woman within comes to the surface and Ms Fritchie reached breaking point when it was explained to her that pregnancy, in personnel terms, was regarded as "a sickness rather than a natural happening."

You can see the logic in the American approach: for the good of the organization, all those working for it are perceived as men. For a man to have a baby is not exactly "a natural happening", ergo getting pregnant is a pretty sick thing to do.

Following changes in the law in this country which greatly erode the terms of the Employ-



PENNY PERRICK

ment Protection Act with regard to employees who are going to have a baby, several pregnant working women here must be sicker rather than plain old inconvenient.

Under the new law, which came into effect on June 1, pregnant women must have worked for the same firm for two years, rather than one, before they are safe from the threat of dismissal. Forced to conceal their pregnancy in order to keep their job, many may

have to go on working. The Act gives them the right to transfer to safer jobs, but only at the cost of revealing their pregnancy. It employment protection terms, they would be better off with a unisex act-of-God sickness like a broken leg.

Both American and British approaches to pregnancy force potential working mothers into a "Catch 22". The official attitude, obvious although unspoken, is that they have no business demanding a job and a family. Yet to bring up children in some degree of comfort mothers must work. Current estimates show that if they didn't two and a half million families would fall below the poverty line and David Pichaud, in his report, *Family Incomes Since the War*, stresses that it is the working mother's wage that maintains the living standard of households with children at the levels of childless couples.

What is a girl supposed to do? Do the decent thing as far as her employer is concerned and never have children? Or give up her job and bring up a tribe who are all dependent on one(male)breadwinner's salary? Employers should bear in mind that if they treat their

workers' desire for motherhood as something outlandish, the response could be fewer pregnancies, fewer babies and, in the long-term, fewer bright kids entering the workforce and earning the wherewithal to provide the whopping great pension due to their mother's old boss. The enlightened employer should see a pregnant employee as a vital and valuable resource for the future.

Last week I wrote about the perils of waffiness - a female affliction brought about by being winsome, arch, fey and fragile. This has caused a lot of people to enquire whether there is a male equivalent. Well, of course there is. It's maffness, the component parts of which are macho, aggressive, forceful and phoney.

It's maff to stroll around with your jacket slung over one shoulder and greet women with a smacking kiss and then make a loud "mum... mmm... umyah" sound. It is maff to flirt with your wife's female friends and punctuate a joke with bouts of deep laughter. It is maff to behave with sexual impetuosity. Maffness works well in escapist literature but never in real life.

In defence of the forgotten children

Early this year Ramadi 2, the prisoner-of-war camp for Iranian boy soldiers 60 miles west of Baghdad, became the scene of an interesting experiment, probably the first of its kind. A large proportion - 875 - of the boys taken in battle were brought to the camp to benefit from an education programme, launched with the cooperation of Iraq.

Behind the plan was Defence for Children International, a little known non-governmental organization set up six years ago. Per Tegma, its Swedish secretary general, passed briefly through London a week ago to attend the first public meeting of the recently formed British branch, the organization's tenth national group.

Tegma had just come from Ramadi 2. He is an engaging man in his late thirties who came to DCI after a decade working with refugees. "I suddenly got fascinated with the idea. In all that time I'd never heard human rights people talking in any specific way about children. I confess I'd been like them; I used to think: what's all that got to do with children?"

Ramadi 2 is one of DCI's successes. Eighteen months ago, after six months of talks in Baghdad, Tegma visited the camp, not to investigate physical conditions but to find out the attitudes of the boys



Two 17-year-old captives at the Ramadi camp

themselves - some as young as 14 and 15 - towards being educated. Approval for lessons was finally won late last year, and in January a prison school of sorts opened, with teachers culled from the Iranian prisoners of war and Farsi-speaking Iraqis. Classes in mathematics, Arabic, English, drawing, carpet weaving and typing were started.

The camp school is not without problems. "We are finding that the children being captured now are more often illiterate, and that there is far less concern in Iran today with formal education", Tegma says. The boys themselves are also

extremely wary of what they are being offered, not least because so many journalists have been allowed in to look. Perhaps they don't want to be accused of collaboration. Perhaps they fear they may be exposed when finally they are repatriated.

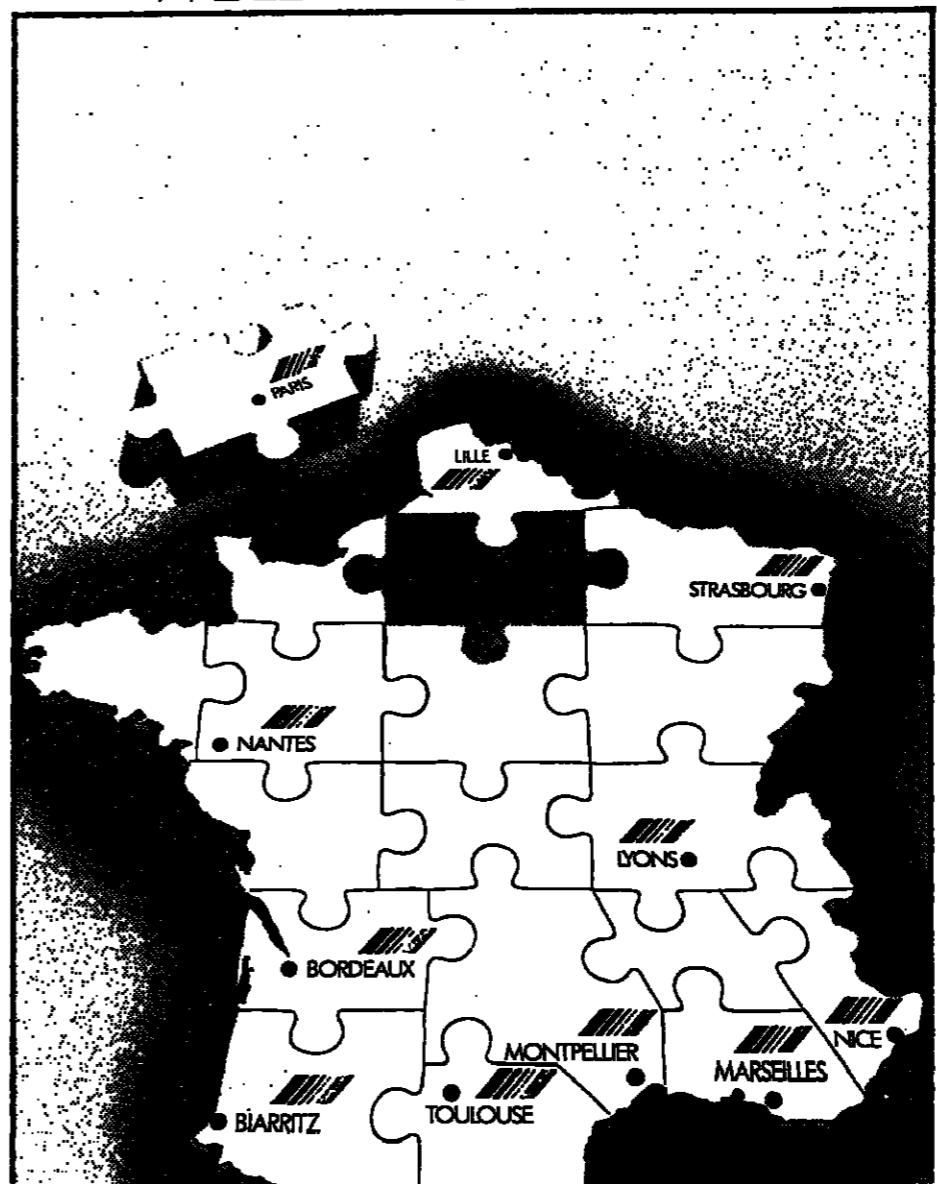
As well as setting up the camp school, DCI has conducted a study, now almost complete, into children in prison in 30 countries; and began an investigation into street children. They are about to set up an inquiry into the trafficking and sale of children. "These are the children who disappear and then reappear as domestic labour in other coun-

tries, or end up in brothels or drug rings", Tegma explains. "Victims seem to be getting younger and younger. Reports have reached us from Thailand that because people want virgins the children taken are younger all the time."

Though Per Tegma seems to be an optimist, he is cautious about the potential of organizations like his. "Tricky" is a word he uses repeatedly. "In this field of human rights there is one totally wrong concept", he says. "It is that change is simply a question of information and that once something has been done you can stop your efforts. This is not true. You can never take anything for granted. Every four or five years there is a new generation who knows nothing. The danger is to think you ever achieve anything lasting for children's rights."

Caroline Moorehead

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THE TIMES DIARY

Rock dock shock

Precious few trade unionists have passed through the door of Number Ten since Mrs T. took post. This can explain Denis Thatcher's remarkably unguarded comments when, in his wife's absence, he hosted a recent Downing Street reception for members of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Union. Learning that one of his guests was a Gibraltar, Denis began holding forth about "the boishie unions in Gibraltar" who were going "to spoil our operations" in the colony's newly-privatized commercial dock. When he had finished, the incredulous Gibraltar informed him that he was a member of the dockers' union. "Oh so that's who you are," remarked Denis and abruptly curtailed the conversation. Thatcher, it must be said, has more than a passing interest in the fortunes of the Gibraltar Ship Repair Company which manages the dock. Its chairman, Peter Simons, is an old friend of his from their Burnham Oil days and the star guest at the company's launch party in March was one D. Thatcher.

Les said

Denis Skinner has finally won a vote on Labour's national executive. The issue was whether the little-loved group of Labour MEPs should be allowed to send a substitute to NEC meetings when its chairman, Barbara Castle, was absent. Skinner abruptly curtailed the rambling debate by pointing out that this could mean the loss of "Loudspeaker" Huckfield, the Man the European Parliament Couldn't Gag, attending their meetings. The executive dissolved into laughter. The motion was overwhelmingly rejected. Skinner was tickled pink.

Questionable

Last week I reported on Peter Bruinvel's 48 parliamentary questions on how much Tony Banks' 30 questions on the Department of Environment profligacy have cost to answer. Hot from the DoE, I have an answer to Bruinvel's queries. Banks' questions - on such vital topics as how much the DoE spends on toilet rolls, ceiling wax, cut flowers and pen nibs - have cost the taxpayer £16,400 to date. Nor is this waste at an end. A leaked memo from ILEA's Stephen Benn refers to the resumption of "our guerrilla offensive aimed at taking up DoE civil servants' time and energy". Another, from Banks to GLC chairman, asks for more ideas for questions.

Scot free

Let no one accuse the Scottish Office of profligacy. The lavish, 6ft banners adorning the entrance hall of its Whitehall offices to mark the department's centenary have not been paid for from the public purse. The department had them made by the inmates of Saughton prison, Edinburgh.

No Moss

Labour foreign affairs spokesman George Foulkes, still waiting to hear if a Foreign Office clerk accused of leaking him papers on blocked grants to Nicaragua is going to be prosecuted, will soon be able to ask the Sandinistas directly about British aid. The lobbyist arm of War of Want is taking him and Tory MP Robert Jackson on a three-week fact-finding tour of Central America, during which they will meet Sandinista leader Daniel Ortega. Also on the jaunt will be Bill Keys of Sogat and Campbell Christie, president of the Scottish TUC. Moss Evans was apparently invited but unable to come - he is too busy dealing with electoral problems rather nearer to home.

Malignant

Is it women, or unions, that make Tory MP Nicholas Winterton see red? He was one of many MPs who recently received a perfectly polite second request for support from the female union organizers of a campaign to have cancer screening facilities at Westminster. "Thank you for your untidy, photocopied and rather impertinent letter of an unspecified date in May, which I hope was not duplicated at taxpayers' expense," Winterton has written back. "... your offhand and singularly rude approach does not merit an endorsement of any kind." From Winterton's wife Ann, MP for Conington, the organizers have received a charming letter of support.

Winterton has a rival in rudeness. When Tory Jill Knight suggested in the Commons last week that 17-year-olds cannot be worth what employers are obliged to pay them, Labour's employment spokesman John Prescott retorted: "Do not be so arrogant, you mean and silly woman."

Maxwell United

I doubt that in the normal course of events the Queen Anne Press would publish as it will this autumn, a "stunning pictorial celebration" of that giant among football clubs, Oxford United. Unfortunately for the QAP, however, it is a subsidiary of Robert Maxwell's British Printing and Communications Corporation. "After 13 outstanding years with the Southern League, Oxford United swept into the football league in 1962," begins the blurb. "But it wasn't until manager Jim Smith and chairman Robert Maxwell took over that the club enjoyed its meteoric rise..."

Dead hand of the Patriarch

The new calm of Tehran is a sign of stagnation rather than change, reports Robert Fisk



Khomeini: mirror to the past, rather than the future

The Sisters of Zeinab cruise Val-e-Ashraf Avenue in their white saloon, seeking out those who might offend the prophet's wife with a smear of Max Factor or a hint of gold beneath a black sleeve. All three wear Chadors and behind them, in a Range Rover, ride four uniformed Revolutionary Guards, automatic rifles in their arms, just in case the young women from Niavaran and Tajrish resist the forces of the Islamic revolution.

A couple of years ago, the Sisters would cradle a woman's lipstick with a piece of cotton wool concealing a razor blade, forcing the injured woman to sign a document containing the words "Man ruspi hastam" - "I am a prostitute" - but today, offenders receive at worst a dull lecture in the local Revolutionary Guards headquarters. It is just as well. Further up Val-e-Ashraf Avenue, in the Safaviyeh shopping precinct arcades, young men in tight jeans are watching the girls go by, noting the scarves that do not conceal all of a woman's hair, the hint of black stockings beneath chadors.

It is not just on the streets that the pressure appears to have eased. Only a year ago, there were daily reports of torture and mass rape coming out of Evin Prison. But two months ago Mr Ali Ladjevardi, the Tehran prosecutor, was dismissed from his post at Evin together with many of his murderous henchmen. In the past few weeks, executions seem to have been carried out more against common criminals than political enemies.

Anyone returning to Tehran after an absence of three years notices a relaxation in daily life. Shopkeepers, businessmen, Iranian journalists, even conservative religious families will complain to visitors about the present government with no apparent fear that they will be betrayed to the Revolutionary Guards.

It is in fact, part of an illusion. The Islamic republic has not suddenly turned democratic: it has simply cut so savagely into its political enemies that there is no focus of opposition left for the people. Last year alone, at least 661 executions are believed to have been carried out in Tehran and a further 237 up to Ladjevardi's dismissal.

The figures were compiled by Amnesty International but the Iranians themselves admit to 197 judicial killings between March last year and last April, claiming that they were all for drug offences. The introduction of a machine specially designed by Iranian engineers to amputate fingers has been proudly announced by Tehran newspapers, proving that the revolution is as anxious as ever to exact punishment on those who contravene its laws.

Such public freedom of expression that does exist can be found in the Majlis, the Iranian parliament

that so many of its critics once predicted would provide only a rubber stamp for Khomeini's decrees. There is open confrontation within the Majlis now over a series of important laws on land reform, foreign trade and the budget. In the parliamentary chamber, conservative members are anxious to preserve the power of the clergy and the Bazaaris, arguing for a liberal economy and no changes in land ownership. Those more radical members who favour the Hezbollah, "The Party of God", are demanding full government control of trade, land redistribution and a number of social reforms that smack, to an outsider, of socialism.

The result has been governmental paralysis. Landowners have refused to till their fields lest the land becomes profitable and is taken away by the state. The Bazaaris, who played so critical a role in bringing Khomeini to power six years ago, are being treated to an exercise in appeasement by the Ayatollah himself. In a long but typically ambiguous statement, Khomeini has proclaimed that the private sector of the economy should be permitted to "realize its potential" although the Bazaaris are as powerless to test this pledge as they are to impose their own will on the government.

With incompetence in the ministries and conflict within parliament, there is almost as little focus for government in Iran as there is for serious opposition - except, of course, in the wretched image of Khomeini. Yet even here, there is more symbol than policy. The Ayatollah has a final veto over all legislation, but his chief function now is to be a presence. He plays the role of patriarch, dutifully produced for the relatives of martyrs or, more rarely, for foreign diplomats, a figure of solidity but no movement, of image rather than content, a mirror to the past rather than the future.

His last meeting with diplomats in Tehran was somehow typical. More than 60 ambassadors, charges and first secretaries were crammed into a tiny room at the Ayatollah residence and obliged to sit cross-legged on a slightly grubby carpet, a French embassy attaché suffering severe cramp as he sat perched half on top of a Scandinavian diplomat. In due course, Khomeini entered the room and delivered a 15-minute speech in Farsi, without translation.

"It didn't matter what he said," one of the embassy officials present said later. "He sat there on an old sheet on a raised dais and he was making only one point. That the Shah would receive his guests in regal magnificence in his palace, but that he, Khomeini, would receive us in humble circumstances."

Each night, the old man is taken to the bunkers beneath the Shah's old palace at Niavaran, the only air shelter in Tehran, to protect him from the war that is his most enduring legacy. As the Iraqi fighter-bombers soar unopposed high over the capital, tens of thousands of the Imam's people flee into the mountains by road. "The mullahs do not care about the people of Tehran," Baghdad radio's Persian service brags over the airwaves. But it is not Iraq that the middle classes listen to, not even the voice of America nor

the BBC, now that counter-revolution seems so unthinkable. It is the Persian service of Israeli radio to which many thousands listen in Tehran - because its analysis usually turns out to be correct.

No analysis of the war or of the economic disaster that it is producing can bring anything but despair to the Iranians. While Khomeini still demands the overthrow of Saddam Hussein, his mullahs appear on local television stations, asking people to contribute food and clothing for their soldiers at the front.

The Iranians have freighted their 600-kilo ground-to-ground missiles up to a new base at Sarpol-e-Zohab in Kurdistan where North Korean engineers calibrate them for the flight to Baghdad. A new Sel German radar system now gives Tehran another two minutes' warning of air attack but the Iranian fighter base responsible for covering Tehran 500 miles away in Shiraz and pilots will not fly over the capital for fear of damaging their aircraft when spare parts are almost impossible to obtain.

There are those who maintain that a new president may produce a new political initiative, some slackening of Khomeini's conditions for ending the war. Hojatoleslam Khomeini, the head of the Haj Association, it is said, could be elected president this summer in place of Ali Khamenei, whose sister has inconsiderately run off to Iraq. Others favour Ayatollah Mohamed Mahdavi-Kani, one of the central ayatollahs, the leader of the militant Ulema society and a genuinely close friend of Khomeini.

Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri, once considered to be a contender for the presidency, is at Qom, isolated and largely ignored, while real day-to-day power lies in the hands of Hojatoleslam Ardebili, the Islamic prosecutor general, and Mohsen Rafiq-Doost, the defence minister and the man who, incidentally, is effectively controller of the Islamic Jihad movement in Lebanon. There are mutterings of reproach about the regime from the elderly ayatollahs in Mashhad but they do not amount to a dissident movement.

Change and renewal will come only when Khomeini effects the one political act that can open the way to new initiatives - by dying. He is still a healthy man, his doctors insist. His revolution has plenty of life in it. So, the war will not end this year and probably not next year. The economy will continue to stagnate. The Sisters of Zeinab will go on patrolling the Vali-e-Ashraf Avenue in their attempt to maintain the purity of the revolution. No one, meanwhile, will dare challenge the patriarch.

New skeleton in the family cupboard

Anne Sofer

National self-criticism has been the overriding preoccupation of English journalists these past 10 days. To get some sense of perspective I have reread George Orwell's famous essay on the English national character, *The Lion and the Unicorn*, written during the blitz.

It is a highly evocative piece of writing, but what it evokes is as much a period as a national identity: "The crowds in the big towns, with their mild, knobby faces, their bad teeth and gentle manners... solid breakfasts and gloomy Sundays, smoky towns and winding roads, green fields and red pillar boxes."

Things were, he knew, changing: "The place to look for the germs of the new England is in light-industry areas and along the arterial roads... There are wide gradations of income, but it is the same kind of life that is being lived at different levels. In labour-saving flats or council houses along the concrete roads and in the naked democracy of the swimming pools. It is a rather restless, cultureless life, centring round tinned food, *Picture Post*, the radio and the internal combustion engine. It is a civilization in which children grow up with an intimate knowledge of magnetics, and in complete ignorance of the Bible."

None of this, however, would change the essential nature of the English character: "In whatever shape England emerges from the war... the gentleness, the hypocrisy, the thoughtlessness, the reverence for law and the reverence of uniforms will remain, along with the sweet puddings and the misty skies... The Stock Exchange will be pulled down, the horse plough will give way to the tractor, the country houses will be turned into children's holiday camps, the Eton and Harrow match will be forgotten, but England will still be England, an everlasting animal stretching into the future and the past, and, like all living things, having the power to change out of all recognition and yet remain the same."

Have we changed out of all recognition and yet remained the same? Orwell would no doubt have been mortified that the Stock Exchange has not fallen as easily as the horse-plough, and that Eton has proved more durable than sweet pudding. And Beaulieu and Woburn Abbey are not quite the sort of children's holiday camps he was envisaging.

Political events took a different turn. The privileged institutions which he thought would be wiped out have survived intact, while the cultural symbols - "the pub, the football match, the back garden, the 'fireside and the nice cup of tea'" - have met a more varied fate. To take that particular collection as a checklist, only the back garden now looks more or less the same: the pub is modernized, the fireside superceded, the cup of tea diluted, and the football match - well, enough said

about the football match. But that list of five national characteristics still looks hazily familiar. To take them in reverse order, the "hatred of uniforms", of any sort of conscription and regimentation, still means that it is impossible, in England, to introduce National Service or identity cards in peacetime. "No party rallies, no youth movements, no coloured shirts, no Jew-baiting or 'spontaneous' demonstrations." Still just about true, thank God.

So just about, is "reverence for law", despite the efforts of extremists to subvert it. It goes with another English characteristic, an assumption of relative incorruptibility in public life, which is still commented on by foreigners. By "thoughtlessness", Orwell seems to mean a particularly English sort of anti-intellectualism: a combination of the blimp-ish "can't afford to have too many of those clever chaps around" with a proletarian contempt for *effete* academicism. Still, alas, all too true, and responsible for our chronic undervaluation of education, a falling of which the nation is at the eleventh hour becoming aware. That "certain power of acting without taking thought", which Orwell noted with some complacency, is slowly being perceived as woefully inadequate.

"Hypocrisy" is more of a puzzle. The humbug about the empire, sexual double standards, those have largely gone. But we are still noticeably inhibited and repressed something that goes with it, but not mentioned by Orwell. English

Our reputation for gentleness was almost all we had left

victims of tragic bereavements appear on television with quivering lip and strangled voice; most would be incapable (on or off television) of abandoning themselves to grief in the way we have seen Italian and Arab mourners do. Only when we are drunk (which increasingly, especially on holiday abroad, we are) are our inhibitions abandoned with a vengeance.

Which brings me, sadly, to the first and most important of the supposed English national characteristics, which Orwell mentions again and again: gentleness. The reason many of us are so particularly horrified by what happened in Brussels, and are so inclined to read large significance into it, is that that reputation was almost all we had left. We may have lost our empire (it was the custom to say a few years ago), we may be poor economic performers, but at least we are a civilized and genteel society. It will be hard convincing anyone of that now.

Orwell described the English as a "family" - with skeletons in every cupboard, certainly, and the wrong members in charge; but still a family with its private language and its common memories. "The common memories of the Thatcher years will be the Falklands War, the miners' strike and the Brussels stadium; the challenge for us all will be keeping the family together to make sense of them all." *The author is SDP member of the GLC/ILEA for St Pancras North.*

Paul Pickering

Beware: fluffed air lines

Everybody curious about the Russians should fly Aeroflot at least once. "Our pilot's rouge is not responsible for the weather delay," a pleasant voice announced as we took off for the USSR. She repeated it many times and sounded very certain. Nevertheless it seemed odd that a Soviet aviator's make-up, even eye liner could have much effect on fog.

But then there were many things about the flight that were a little puzzling. Why in order to go to Nicaragua one had to fly to Moscow to fly back to Shannon, to get to Cuba and finally Mangusay seemed strange. Wherever you are going, trip to Moscow airport is deemed essential.

The large modern terminal always appears to be in perpetual night and blizzard even when it's sunny outside. It has the gigantic soulless presence of a space station on a seldom-visited moon of Pluto. Any traveller who is flippant about this state cathedral gets a few days in the real heart of darkness, the transit hotel.

However, this is not clear when you disembark and follow arrows past grim-faced policemen to a cramped dark-floored stairs with a few hundred others and struggle upwards, occasionally treading on some luckless child or elderly person. The transit ritual is rather like trying to get into heaven, and indeed at the top the comrades are sorting the sheep from the goats.

A party of inebriate Swedes next to me on what they dubbed the "Odessa Steps" marked themselves out from the start as goats. Comments such as "All aboard the Flying Gulag" or "This is a day in the flight of Ivan Denisovich" did not go unnoticed. They were sentenced to three days in the dreaded transit hotel. The official reason given is that you have cancelled the next leg of your flight. The whimpering and much sobered Swedes were led away.

Those who make it past Moscow notice the planes have a prison disquieting smell, which favoured passengers are given access to combat. A huge air hostess trundles a drinks trolley down the aisle. I asked for a gin and tonic. "I give you

Stephen Aris charts the latest twist in a battle for the future of the fleet

Late last March, a small but somewhat disparate group met for a very private lunch at Brooks's Club in St James. Among the guests were Lord Hill-Norton, the former chief of defence staff, Professor R. V. Jones, author of *Most Secret War* and now professor of natural philosophy at Aberdeen University, Dr Richard L. Garwin, the distinguished American defence physicist, Lord Strathcona, former junior minister for defence procurement, Sir Terence Conran, chairman of Habitat Mothercare and Christopher Monkton who as a member of the Downing Street policy unit answers directly to the Prime Minister.

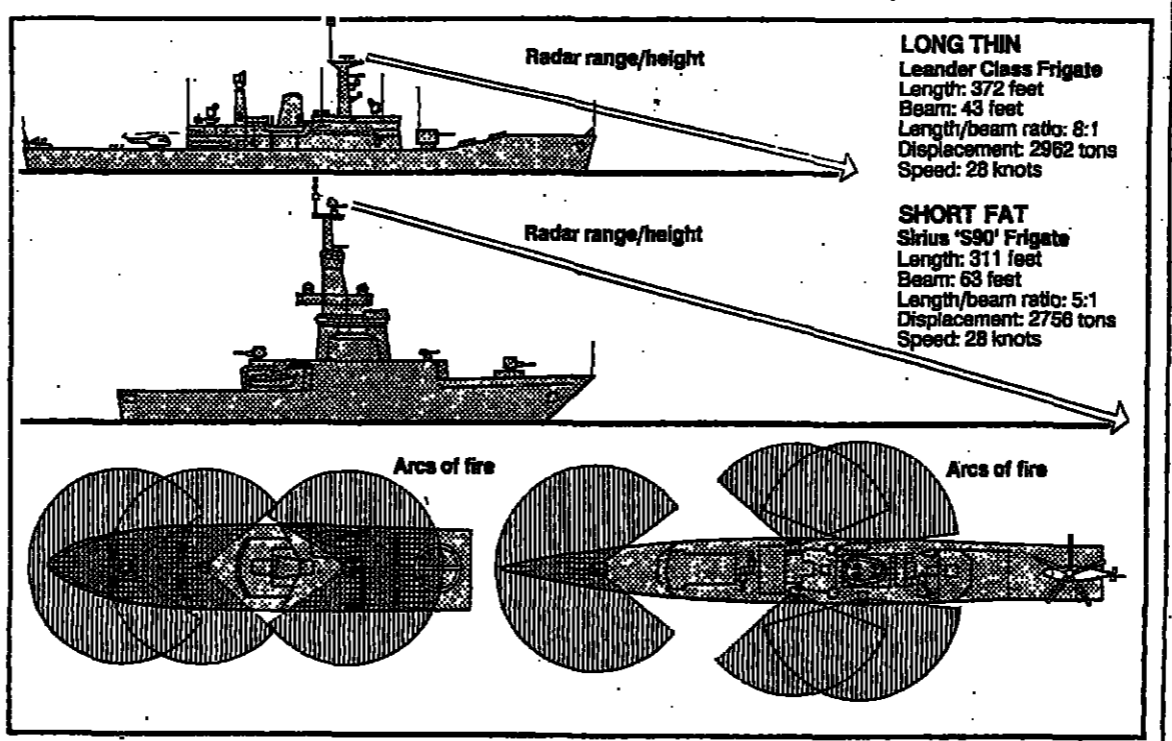
It was no idle social gathering. The purpose was to set up an informal committee, independent of the Whitehall machine, to act as arbiters in one of the longest and most fiercely fought disputes to shake the Navy since the fight over HMS Dreadnought almost exactly 80 years ago.

The issues are remarkably similar: again the basic principles of naval architecture are being challenged with traditionalists opting for warship designs that are long and pencil-thin - the greyhounds of the seas - while the modernists are promoting the cause of the short and fat. But the argument, while highly technical, is not just an academic dispute between two schools of naval architecture. What is at stake, so the proponents of the short, fat concept say, is the future of Britain's surface fleet well into the next century. If the wrong decision is made it will cost billions.

When Michael Heseltine, the Minister of Defence, opened the debate on defence estimates in the House of Commons on Wednesday, he is likely to make only a passing reference to the controversy. The Ministry of Defence has already chosen the traditional long, thin design for the next generation of frigates, the Type 23, to replace the ageing Leander class. But although the Yarrow yard recently sold to GEC, which has already completed the design work for the first eight Type 23s, behind the scenes the battle continues between the proponents of the short, fat S90, led by David Giles and Peter Thornycroft of Thornycroft Giles, naval architects, and the supporters of Type 23, backed by the Admiralty design team at Bath. And later this year the two sides will meet in the High Court to contest a breach of copyright case which is expected to throw much light on the murkier aspects of naval procurement.

David Giles, the son of a famous designer of racing yachts, Laurent Giles, is considered by the defence establishment as a pushy outsider and, worse still, an amateur. He runs a successful firm designing motor yachts for the very rich. Nonetheless his ideas have a long and respectable pedigree. It was team partner's grandfather, John Thornycroft, who first persuaded the Navy of the advantages of the long, thin ship. But as the efficiency of naval engines improved, Thornycroft changed tack and began to preach the virtues of a short, fat design.

The reason for the Navy's hostility, Giles claims, has been its obsession with speed. It maintains that the S90 needs more powerful engines, uses more fuel, and is less stable than the conventional design in calm weather. Giles concedes



Another act in the little and large show

some of these points but says the advantages are overwhelming. Scientifically measured sea trials with 35R models have, he says, conclusively demonstrated that the S90 rides the waves in almost any sea infinitely better than the old Leander design on which the new Type 23 is based. The S90's wider beam also provides a larger, more stable weapons platform, the height of its superstructure means that its radar scanners can "see" further, the shortness of the hull makes it less vulnerable to missile attack and the simplicity of the hull design cuts construction and maintenance costs in half.

This last point could prove to be an important one. In the 18 months since the MoD rejected the S90 costs have risen from £120 to £150 million per ship. And there are now serious doubts at high levels in the Admiralty whether the Government is prepared to give the escalating costs of the Trident programme, to order as many of the new frigates as the Navy thinks necessary to maintain Britain's credibility as a major sea power.

Yarrow's chairman and chief executive, Bob Easton, is undeterred. "There are no dents in the programme as far as I'm concerned," he says. "Everything is going to schedule. We are talking to Swan Hunter about placing an order for one ship and we hope to put another two orders out to tender fairly shortly."

Economic uncertainties and the attendant worries of the Navy's top brass is one reason for the formation of the Hill-Norton committee; the Government's as yet unrewarded contract for a new offshore patrol vessel, the OPV III, is another. First announced last October the patrol project, at £35 to £40 million apiece, is nothing like as ambitious as the frigate programme. But it does, in theory, give David Giles another chance to get his foot in the door. Like the S90, the Giles OPV III is short, fat and cheap. The OPV III contract could be worth an initial £100 million and possibly much more. "It would be a very prestigious project," says Jimmy Milne, managing director of the Aberdeen-based Hall Russell yard which built the OPV III's predecessor and which, along with Osprey, is one of the two other main contenders.

But so far it is Thornycroft Giles, undeterred by its previous setbacks, that has made most of the running. Backed by two merchant banks, Ansabachers and the Orion Bank, the Giles consortium also has the support of the Danish yard, Frederikshavn Vaerft, which built its earlier successful Osprey design and Sir Terence Conran, who is interested in fitting out the new boat.

Talks are also taking place with a group of Aberdeen businessmen led by Ian Philip, a senior partner of accountants Panell Kerr and the managing director of Aberdeen Shipbuilders, which has just been set up to bid for Hall Russell. A fortnight ago Aberdeen Shipbuilders opened negotiations for Hall Russell's owners, British Shipbuilders. The opening offer was around £1 million for a yard which, although outdated, is currently trading profitably.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FOOD AND FAMINE

When the Commons debates famine tomorrow it will naturally focus on the dramatic images from the horn of Africa...

farmers in the developed world which leads to the exorbitant cost of stockpiling unused food and to dumping policies in food deficit areas...

grain exports, with the other four-fifths to go to a diminishing market in the Middle East and to developing countries whose capacity to pay must be very doubtful...

We thus have a world in which the only areas of endemic food insufficiency are the Soviet bloc, elements of the Middle East and South Saharan Africa...

There is thus a moral hazard at the heart of the question of famine in Africa. Beyond this year's relief operation, or next, there must come a time when those remaining governments of the developing world who carry out disagreeable military policies...

At the heart of it is a willingness to evaluate the cost and importance of our rural economy, indeed the whole skein of rural values in a world which is progressively divided between town and country...

It is the same story round the world in those countries which used to be held up as emblematically unable to feed themselves. India is effectively self-sufficient, Pakistan nearly, Brazil and Argentina are both strenuously engaged in exporting food surpluses without which they could not pay for the imports necessary to keep their economies functioning well enough to cope with their international debts...

Unfortunately the likelihood of African governments most afflicted by famine seriously changing their policies to cope with the future will not be helped by the phenomenal increase in food surpluses and the attempts by the world grain exporters to offload them. One-fifth of all American exports go in agriculture and 35 per cent of the Common Market's wheat is exported. South-East Asia and Japan are not expanding their markets, which leaves the Soviet Union acquiring one-fifth of all

partly stalled in the 1970s, have in recent years been moving forward again in the direction of more decentralization, more room for market forces, more incentives for productivity and slightly more opportunities for private enterprise. But this has once again raised the question of how far economic freedom can run ahead of political freedom. How far can you develop a decentralized, pluralistic, market-oriented economy inside a centralized, monopolistic, Communist party-state?

THE HUNGARIAN QUESTION

Hungary went to the polls at the weekend to elect its new parliament. Voters in every constituency doubtless weighed their choices gravely. Should they vote for the Patriotic People's Front candidate? Or should they rather plump for the candidate of the Patriotic People's Front? Like everything else in the West's favourite east European country, any judgement on this election depends on where you look east, to Romania, and beyond it to the Soviet Union, then an election in which for the first time, all voters will at least have a choice of candidates, though not of party, seems a model of openness and westernness. If you look west, to Austria or West Germany, then an election in which (in the words of the responsible Politburo member) "every candidate can run and politicise only on the election programme endorsed by the People's Front," and that programme essentially restates the policy of the ruling Communist Party, seems more like a farce.

Thus far, political reform has lagged well behind economic reform. Although the party does in practice govern in a more cautious and consultative way, it has not devolved political decision making to anything like the extent it has devolved economic decision making.

For the foreseeable future, it seems most unlikely that Hungary's Communist rulers will surprise us with any more serious proposals for electoral representation for the devolution of power. Most power holders everywhere, want to hang on to power; and, since Lenin, Soviet-type governments have raised this base human instinct to the first principle of politics. So the Hungarian Question remains: how far can you towards more economic freedom, without allowing more political freedom? Budapest has one of the most handsome parliament buildings in Europe, but it still has nothing we could seriously call a parliament.

ONE DAY AT A TIME

Although the 50th birthday of Alcoholics Anonymous will not be celebrated today with lavish cheer by its members, it ought perhaps to rate at least a congratulatory teletext message from Mrs Thatcher's Government. A Think Tank report on Alcohol Policy was one of the first studies to land on the Prime Minister's desk when she took office in 1979. It told of rising alcohol abuse and the consequent cost to society of up to £500 million a year. At the same time the Exchequer, if not exactly dependent on alcohol, was uncomfortably reliant on it for more than £2 billion in tax revenue. To the new Prime Minister alcoholism was just one more on the list of problems around which policies might be planned and cash might be thrown in the slim hope of social betterment.

Think Tank, which merely noted it as the biggest of the voluntary organizations that "usually receive public grants". AA does not, however, receive any public funds. Nor does it cultivate a public image. It has about 35,000 members in more than 2,000 separate groups, whose common philosophy is to help each other to help themselves by eschewing alcohol "one day at a time" and telling their fellows how they do it. Each group raises its own funds. Some may be in a modest celebratory mood this week, some not. The small central office in London need not even know.

The insistence on anonymity, solidarity and shared spiritual strength, makes Alcoholics Anonymous a potential object of state suspicion instead of gratitude in some parts of the world. It does not operate in the Soviet empire where its services could be well used, although in its 50 years it has spread from the United States to a total of 116

countries. In South Africa blacks and whites belong to the same groups; in Northern Ireland Catholics and Protestants. AA has also spawned imitators who apply its principles to the control of gambling, drug abuse, even overeating. At each AA meeting - wherever in the world it takes place - it is individual members who strengthen the will of other individuals to stay sober. That was the tradition set by the organization's co-founders, New York stockbroker Bill Wilson and Ohio doctor, Bob Smith, whose first meeting took place in Akron, Ohio, on June 10, 1935. The groups accept no common diagnosis of alcoholism. They offer no easy answers, no aversion therapy, none of the showing of diseased organs so beloved by campaigners against smoking. Society's attitude to alcoholism may have gone through changes in the past 50 years; in AA's view, the individual's difficulty in dealing with his or her drink problem has not.

Efficiency of the welfare state

From the Director of Shelter Sir, Your editorial, "Targeting welfare" (June 4) questions the efficiency of the welfare state in redistributing wealth from the rich to the poor. But in doing so it accepts the Government's view that targeting is about directing resources from the poor to the very poor.

The inefficiency and injustice of this approach is amply illustrated in housing. If we wanted an effective system of housing support which redistributed wealth from the rich to the poor, we would have to consider the whole range of housing subsidies, including mortgage interest relief.

Your editorial, like the Government, expresses shock at the fact that one in three householders are receiving housing benefit. Yet virtually the same proportion of households - one in three - are receiving mortgage interest relief.

Housing benefit, which gives greatest help to those on lowest incomes, cost £4.1 bn in 1984-85, yet mortgage interest relief, which subsidises most generously those on highest incomes, did not cost much less at £3.5 bn. And it should be remembered that while the cost of mortgage interest relief rose by nearly 20 per cent in real terms last year, the real cost of housing benefit actually fell.

The underlying reasons for the rise in the overall cost of housing benefit payments, as the Government admits in the Green Paper, has been the increase in unemployment (up 2 1/2 times between March, 1980 and March, 1985) and the cut in general subsidies to council housing, which in 1984-85 were less than a third their level just four years before.

These facts show the importance of taking other factors into consideration before passing judgment on the Government's proposals. What is clearly missing from the Government's Green Paper is that wider vision - present in Beveridge - which emphasises the importance of other economic and social policies in providing genuine social security.

By neglecting goals such as decent housing and full employment, the Government has produced the benefits "crisis" it now seeks to resolve. For the same reasons Reform of Social Security, with its narrow focus on "targeting" financial assistance, will do little to resolve the real problems of poverty, unemployment and bad housing.

Yours faithfully, SHEILA McKECHNIE, Director, Shelter, 157 Waterloo Road, SE1, June 6.

Strasbourg law

From Mr George Cunningham Sir, Fred Silvester, in his letter printed on June 4, complains that British MPs on our delegation to the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe are appointed by the Party Whips and not chosen by Parliament itself. The truth is even more odd.

Article 25 of the Statute of the Council of Europe requires that delegates should be elected by national parliaments or appointed in such manner as parliaments direct. The British Parliament has never given its approval to the insolent practice of successive governments in purporting to appoint the delegation by government fiat. For the last 34 years our so-called delegates have been invalid and should have been ruled as such long ago by the credentials committee of the Assembly.

Let us something for the supreme quality of Parliament that this fact will come as a total surprise to nearly all MPs, though the position is clearly stated in article 347 of their own Manual of Procedure. Yours faithfully, GEORGE CUNNINGHAM, 28 Manor Gardens, Hampton, Middlesex, June 4.

Teaching mathematics

From Mr D. B. Welbourn Sir, The Prime Minister of Baden-Württemberg, Herr Lothar Späth, speaking at the German Ingenieurtag in Stuttgart last week, said that 25 years ago Germany had made a disastrous educational experiment in allowing children, in what we would call the sixth form, to specialise in any two subjects that they liked. This had resulted in mathematics, physics and chemistry, the "hard" sciences, being so widely neglected that the whole educational system had been disrupted.

Now the individual states, led by Baden-Württemberg, have returned to reason and from now on, in order to get into any faculty at a German university, pupils will have had to have passed their school-leaving examination, the Abitur, in a minimum of five subjects with German, mathematics, a foreign language, a "hard" science, and history as compulsory subjects.

The effect of this will be that once more children will be able to decide when they leave school what they want to study, instead of having to make the decision two years earlier. Under the "new" scheme, before it was thrown out 25 years ago, something like 20 per cent of engineering graduates had passed both Latin and Greek in their school-leaving examination. Until mathematics is made a compulsory subject at AO level in this country we shall continue to suffer from the problem of the two cultures, which had started to rear its ugly head in Germany as a result of specialisation at school. Yours truly, D. B. WELBOURN, 3 Westbury Court, Grange Road, Cambridge, May 28.

Expansion at Stansted and Heathrow

From Mr W. C. Woodruff Sir, The airport inquiries report of Mr Graham Eyre, QC, with which, as his aviation assessor, I was associated, was published six months ago. Your leader of December 11, 1984, in response to that report, was titled "Stansted can wait" and you advocated, as a first step, the provision of a fifth terminal at Heathrow with only the "very minimum scale" of growth at Stansted.

The basic arithmetic of passenger demand and capacity in the South-east, allowing for continued or accelerating growth at regional airports, demonstrated then and still demonstrates that there will be a need for additional capacity in the London area by about 1990-91. Indeed, if growth continues at the rate experienced in recent years, the need may arise before that date.

Even if the Government had agreed to go ahead with a fifth terminal at Heathrow as quickly as practicable, there is no way in which it could be available for use before the mid-1990s. The result, taking the White Paper figures, would be a shortfall in London area capacity of some five to ten millions in 1995. Considerations of runway capacity may well point to the higher figure.

Clearly, Stansted cannot wait. Heathrow and especially Gatwick are already operating at maximum runway capacity at peak times and some airlines are transferring to Stansted in order to operate flights at acceptable times.

Your leader today (June 6) continues to ignore the basic arithmetic. The Government asked the Inspector for a long-term strategy which would remove uncertainty to ensure that demands could be met into the next century. The report provided that strategy by identifying the potential for further expansion at Stansted and Heathrow as and when it might be needed. The White Paper recognises the existence of that potential.

The possibility of a fifth terminal at Heathrow is to be kept under review. Permission is granted for the development of Stansted up to fifteen million, subject to a check at eight months in time to meet demand in 1990-91. BA is invited to identify an area for a second terminal but, understandably, the Government will defer any decision about expansion to twenty-five million.

The recommendation in our report that there should be no

second runway at Stansted is unreservedly accepted. Luton is invited to increase capacity to five million. The development of regional airports is to be further encouraged. Thus, if passenger demand continues to increase into the 21st century, everyone is now aware of the ways in which that demand may be accommodated.

After decades of indecision, those living around airports and the air transport industry should welcome the Government's positive response to the removal of much of the uncertainty that has plagued airport policy for so long. So, Sir, should you.

Yours faithfully, W. C. WOODRUFF, 25 Chichester Avenue, Ruislip, Middlesex, June 6.

From Mr Henry Archer Sir, I read your leading article "Stansted on standby" this morning with astonishment. It contains not a single reference to the environmental effects of airport policy. Anyone might think that airports operated in some far-off commercial empyrean where the shouts of the market reverberate around like affirmations of the gods.

If Mr Ridley has heard the voice of the market, you primly remark, he has not heeded it. What he has heeded is the voice of a quarter of a million Londoners and more who are fed up to the back teeth with aircraft noise. For this he deserves some credit.

Yours faithfully, HENRY ARCHER, 25 Clarence Road, Kew, Surrey, June 6.

From Professor Alastair Cameron Sir, One wonders how people will get to Stansted from London. Either slog through the City, Mile End Road, Leytonstone High Road and eventually reach the M11, or wait for an Inner Circle train and carry ones bags through the tunnels and staircases of Liverpool Street to the BR train.

The traveller will need a lot of incentives to choose Stansted in preference to Heathrow or Gatwick. Yours, ALASTAIR CAMERON, 39 Maids Causeway, Cambridge, June 6.

Abolition and the arts

From Mr Norman Buchan, MP for Paisley South (Labour) Sir, You report (June 7) that the Arts Council received "a cool response" from the Minister to their plea to restore the money lost to the arts through the abolition of the metropolitan counties and the GLC.

I find this astonishing. Firstly because the Government has pledged itself up to the hilt that the arts would not lose financially as a result of abolition. Indeed, it was for this reason that in April of last year the Government pledged £10 million which they reckoned was full replacement for the amount lost by abolition. They therefore accepted and pledged a replacement money.

But secondly, I am surprised because the Ministry do not seem to have taken on board the true scale of the crisis facing the Arts Council.

The real replacement figure has now proved to be not £16 million but £46 million; leaving, therefore, a shortfall to the arts in this coming year of £30 million.

That is a figure almost exactly equivalent to the total annual cost of the Royal Opera House, the Royal Shakespeare Company, the National Theatre and English National Opera combined. Or for another comparison, it is nearly three times as much as the total annual grant to all the regional arts associations in England put together.

It is therefore a catastrophic position. It is a position which the Government was pledged to prevent. They must now honour their pledge. They must now bring forward their promised replacement money. Yours sincerely, NORMAN BUCHAN, Shadow Spokesman on the Arts, House of Commons, June 7.

Okehampton by-pass

From Lord Molson and others Sir, On November 24 last you published a letter deploring the apparent intention of the Government to support a procedure to reverse in the House of Commons to deny petitioners in Parliament a hearing before a joint committee of both Houses, to which as recently as November 14 the Chairman of Committees in the House of Lords and Chairman of Ways and Means had granted, after a proper hearing, their full fat.

Better counsels properly prevailed and following a hearing of 15 days the joint committee of both Houses determined on April 3 that the compulsory purchase orders of the Secretary of State for Transport be not approved.

The joint committee's reasons are given succinctly in their special report. The committee endorse the contentions of the amenity society petitioners against the orders that Okehampton's by-pass should follow a northern route and the special report states "that the arguments in favour of the southern route [favoured by the Secretary of State] do not justify the incursion into the national park in this case". One would think that that should be an end of the matter.

However, on May 22 there appeared on the order paper of the House of Commons a motion, supported by 107 predominantly Conservative members regretting the decision of the joint committee and urging the Government to introduce a confirming Bill to reverse the decision.

For the Government to do so is to afford support to such a Bill would be without constitutional precedent, in that since the passing of the Statutory Orders (Special Procedure) Act 1945 a decision of a joint committee that an order before them be not approved has never been reversed.

We consider that the joint committee's view must be accepted, reached after the fullest consideration of the evidence of both the petitioners and the Department of Transport. The committee found that the northern route provided a "reasonable alternative means" within the principle of the all-party policy, declared in the Department of the Environment's Circular 4 of 1976, "that no new route for long distance traffic should be constructed through a national park, or

existing road upgraded, unless it has been demonstrated that there is a compelling need which could not be met by any reasonable alternative means".

We would deplore any attempt to reverse the joint committee's carefully considered decision. The present Commons motion is inaccurate in specifying a delay of eight years or longer, when the evidence of the department postulated five and the special report stated that a northern route can be achieved, "given good will, commitment and co-operation in a significantly shorter timetable".

Let all concerned in this matter now join to that end and let there be no illusion but that if the Secretary of State seeks instead to introduce a confirming Bill to force through the route through the national park mistakenly chosen by the department, the Bill will be strongly contested.

Yours faithfully, RENTON, GREENE WHITE, JOHNSON, CARADON, J. GRIMOND, KILMARNOCK, DAVID OWEN, WINSTANLEY, PETER MELCHETT, c/o 15 Great College Street, Westminster, SW1.

More beds for Ariel

From Mr D. V. Q. Henriques Sir, I read with interest Mr Neil Hall's letter about cowslips (May 21). In this area they have never been extinct on land that is too steep to cut and fertilize and they have been coming back on the roadside verges very strongly during the last two or three years, as indeed have the bluebells.

I think there are two reasons for this. One is that most of the cereals, at least in this area, are winter-sown and therefore most of the spraying is done in the late autumn and early winter, when many plants, including cowslips, are dormant and not vulnerable to the sort of chemicals used.

The second factor, which has also affected other flowers, is that the councils have economized and are not cutting the verges either so early, so often or so far back. Instead of doing two cutter widths early in the year and perhaps repeating it, they are doing only one, and rather later in the season, when things like cowslips have ceased to flower and presumably seeded.



ON THIS DAY

JUNE 10 1793 These short news items are not epoch making. Their purpose is to illustrate the variety and comprehensiveness of the foreign correspondence in The Times in the first decade of its history.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE

STOCKHOLM, MAY 17.

It is said that a small Prussian fleet is to be formed at Danzig, composed of galleys, gun sloops and other armed vessels. The report generally circulated of an agreement having been made between our Court and that of Copenhagen, guaranteed by the British Government, for the observing of a strict neutrality, is considered to be untrue.

VIENNA, MAY 22.

Reports of a speedy pacification are still kept up; but nobody gives credit to them. Our troops destined to reinforce the armies of the Rhine and in Flanders, have received orders to double their march.

WARSAW, MAY 18.

Russian troops occupy all the places intended for assembling the Dietines, which are fixed for the 17th of the present month and the Diet for the 27th June. The little liberty that will subsist at them may be judged from these precautions; and therefore people think that everything is already prepared and settled, and that the Diet will have but to sanction the arrangements which may be proposed to it.

The EMPRESS OF RUSSIA has published an Universal, in order to ensure the subsistence of the Polish Province, that she has taken possession of, how happy they are to pass under her Government, in which she promises them all kinds of prosperity.

FRANCKFORT, MAY 25.

Since the unsuccessful attempt made by the French on the 17th of this month to establish the communication with Mayence, they have returned to their old situation. The Prussian troops have also resumed their former position at Hombourg, and at Carlsberg, on the Dutchy of Deux-Ponts, which the French have again evacuated.

BRUSSELS, JUNE 4.

It is settled that the bombardment of Valenciennes and Condé shall commence this week. The Archduke CHARLES will set out to-day, in order to assist at the first operations, and at the opening of the siege.

The Prince de COBOURG has given the most positive orders to respect property, and to avoid all devastation during the campaign, except such as the events of war necessarily occasion. These wise measures will not a little tend to enhance his operations, by conciliating the country people to him.

The Allies everywhere find a pretty good disposition among the peasants, who bear still some attachment to their religion, and receive their former passions with pleasure. The French soldiers, who were formerly employed in the Hereditary Princes of ORANGE, when he retook possession of that town, contented himself with arresting the assassins and principal authors of this treachery, and has sent them to Maastricht.

SPIRES, MAY 27.

We remain in a state of inaction that will continue after the taking of Mayence, which is not besieged. It is true that the Commanders of the garrison, despairing of being succoured, are negotiating with the Prussian General to surrender, and that it is only the refusal of certain conditions that retards the reduction of the place.

Houcard, the present Commander of the army in Alsace, is an officer of fortune, who never knew how to buy horses for the regiment in which he served. This post procured him a Captain's commission and the Revolution made a General of him. We shall soon see whether he knows how to command armies as well as he does to buy horses. Generals Landremont and Dittman are under him.

LIEGE, JUNE 3.

A corps of 6000 Austrians, which we expected, received orders yesterday, at six leagues from this city, to retrograde and to the siege of Mayence. It began to march this morning.

A letter, dated May 18, has been received from a place distant one league from Poitiers, stating that the Royalists were masters of the city, and that their affairs were in a prosperous state.

More or less correct

From Mr David Fitch Sir, Doctor Smerdon's "slightly imperfect" calculator (June 6) puts me in mind of a telephone I met in a Spanish hotel bearing the optimistic message: "Este telefono funciona con irregularidad." Yours faithfully, DAVID FITCH, 12 Church Road, Alresford, Colchester, Essex.

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

No time to let go of the rate system string

One consequence of Mr Norman Fowler's social security review is that it behoves us to take seriously government promises to "do something" about rates. A government which - in defiance rather than fulfilment of its electoral programme - embarks on such an upheaval as the phasing out of state earnings-related pensions must be supposed to mean something of what it says about the reform of local authority finance.

Like the third London airport, rates reform has been simmering on the back burner of politics. The problem of rates is first a problem of the disenfranchised - not just local business, but central government, which between them provide the lion's share of local authority income. It is also, to look at the other side of the coin, a problem of representation without taxation: only about half of all householders pay full domestic rate, while other voters do not pay directly at all.

As a result, there is a natural bias towards expenditure. The Government has taken steps to block it, both by ratcheting and by a system of penalties which claws money back to the central treasury, but it has not removed the source of pressure. Thus the argument for reform takes two forms. One, to return control of spending to those who pay the bills. In effect, this means shifting it to central government, although the notion of a business vote in local elections remains live in the Conservative Party. The simple way to do this would be to end the rate support grant and transfer the £11 billion bill for local authority current spending on education to the Treasury - give or take a few adjustments, the two would roughly cancel out.

But this would imply that the control of local education should pass to the centre too. Fair enough. There is no reason, other than history, why education should be a local responsibility and health centrally-run. But after exhausting and politically draining attempt to abolish merely the top tier of urban local government in Britain, the most trigger-happy Cabinet might quail before such an assault on local power.

Nor, of course, would it deal with the imbalance of power between the minority of full ratepayers and the rest of the local electorate, on the one hand, and the disenfranchised business ratepayer and the domestic voter on the other. So the search is on for another, wider-based tax. The chief problem is that the rates are such a big revenue-raiser: even after an estimated £1.6 billion in rate rebates, they are expected to bring in £13.6 billion this financial year - more than any other form of taxation except income tax, national insurance and value-added tax.

In an attempt to spread the burden around, the Government is seriously considering a poll tax - sorry, resident's tax. This is more than a change in title. It is a recognition that such a tax could not be based on the electoral register. This is the easy - indeed the only - existing information base on who lives where, but it is based on voluntary registration, which can work only for so long as it merely confers a right to vote rather than an obligation (ie, to pay tax). A poll tax, by any name, would have to be based on another, compulsory register, like the system of motor licensing.

In a country that explodes with public indignation every time identity cards are proposed, it is hard to see such a plan going down well. Moreover, it would be an enormous task - mobility is increasing, and with it the difficulty of keeping tabs on the whereabouts of British citizens.

Nor are the administrative difficulties the only ones. Calculations vary, but the individual tax burden on adults would have to be about £150 each even if business rates remained. Thus those dependent on state income support would have to be helped, in whole or in part.

Furthermore there is the problem of those who are not on benefits but who do not have any income themselves - mainly non-working wives.

Under Mr Nigel Lawson's proposals for personal taxation, they will have a basic tax allowance which can be set against their husbands' income. Perhaps husbands could therefore be expected to pay their wives' poll tax, completing the trend in the Government's tax-benefit changes towards the treatment of couples as a single unit and loading more of its transactions with that unit on to the man's pay packet. But it would be a singularly unpopular step in a direction which is already contested by the poverty lobby. Indeed, if couples are to be treated as one in this way, then there is little logical difference between taxing a householder and leaving a poll tax on both husband and wife.

Except, of course, that a poll tax would fall also on that couple's newly adult children, who can at present vote with the least interest in the rate burden of all. But an extra tax on 18-year-olds' earnings chimes ill with the Government's efforts to reduce youth unemployment.

And yet, if the poll tax net is not cast wide, its advantages diminish and its level (and consequent unpopularity) increases. It is at this point that rates come to look like rather an efficient tax again. They are easy to administer and hard to avoid. Unlike financial property, houses cannot be stuffed into bank accounts in the Bahamas or old socks under the bed. Using property as a base for tax spreads the burden from income tax while following roughly the same principle, in that the house you live in does to some extent reflect your income. Too great a burden of revenue-raising should never be laid upon a single system of assessment and rules, which is why most countries like to tax the property as well as the income of their citizens.

It may be that it is too late, given government commitments, to divert proper resentment with the rating system into its improvement rather than the replacement by a resident's tax (or the problematic alternatives of local income or sales tax). The bitter political consequences of rate revaluation in Scotland (where, in the normal way of these things, some councils sneaked an overall increase in rate income and unfairly blamed it on the need to reassess relative values) have led ministers to promise that a reform of local authority finance will precede any revaluation in England. Thus the system is frozen until the Government produces a full set of proposals later in the year.

But there are quite modest changes that could be made quite rapidly in the basis for valuation, for example, which is widely reckoned to be nonsensically distorted. Mr Norman Fowler's social security review, meanwhile, proposes changes which - whatever other effects they may have - will increase sensitivity to rate rises. It may be that as the Government's present system of controlling local spending begins to settle down, it may come to operate more fairly and against less resistance. It certainly does not look like the best moment to let go of the string and chase after a new tiger. It may even be that a poll tax could find its place, not as a replacement for rates but as a supplement to them, to which councils desirous of spending above Government targets would be required to resort. For such a marginal tax there would not need to be a vast structure of exemptions, or a new register. If it were based on an electoral register, and voters consequently disappeared, councils would find themselves obliged to rely for re-election on precisely those people who had paid its tax.

Sarah Hogg Economics Editor

Harris reveals strong hand in Debenhams bid battle

By Patience Wheatcroft

Mr Phil Harris is emerging as one of the most powerful players in the fight for control of Debenhams. His Harris Queensway is the majority shareholder in three of Debenhams' main trading subsidiaries, and now he has built up a stake of nearly 5 per cent in the company itself. His friend, and occasional business partner, Mr Gerald Ronson, has a similar stake.

Last year there was speculation that Harris Queensway was contemplating its own bid for Debenhams, perhaps in partnership with Mr Ronson's Heron International. Instead, Mr Harris formed a trading link with Debenhams, effectively paying £10 million to take over the bulk of the department stores furniture, carpet and electricals business.

The deal involved a "non-aggression" pact under which Harris had to agree to get Debenhams' permission before buying shares in the company but, apparently the agreement covered only declarable stakes

of 5 per cent or more. Mr Harris and Mr Ronson have kept their purchases just below that limit. "I am in a very strong position", says Mr Harris, who has had extensive talks with the Burton Group, now offering £475 million for Debenhams, and with Habitat Mothercare, which is supporting the bid.

One of the schemes they have discussed, and about which he is particularly enthusiastic, involves the flotation of Welbeck Finance, the Debenhams credit company, as an aid towards funding the Burton bid.

If Burton, Habitat and Harris put all their credit business into Welbeck it could more than double the size of the operation. At least part of that enlarged company could then be sold to outsiders for a large profit.

Last year half of Debenhams' £40 million pretax profits came from Welbeck, although critics say that the company's charges are unusually high. Apparently Welbeck now charges Debenhams' retail operations a commission of 2½ per cent for



Phil Harris: huge business potential

sales done on its credit cards, a similar charge to that made by cards like Access and Barclaycard. Many finance houses which provide in-house credit cards actually pay the retailer a commission rather than charge one.

Mr Harris believes that if he, Habitat and Burton all linked up with Welbeck, the benefits could go beyond a profitable flotation. He has ideas for a

joint catalogue of their products and Welbeck-funded mail order sales. "It could be a huge business", he says.

Last week Harris Queensway made an agreed £21 million all share bid for Rayford Supreme, the electrical specialist. This will add to the buying power of the Greens and Ultimate electricals businesses which Harris now operates with Debenhams.

Branches of these stores could be an important element in the Galleria concept now being put forward by Burton and Habitat. Ultimate is actually shown in the illustration on the front of the Burton offer document. "They need me more than I need them", says Mr Harris.

Mr Ronson said that he and Mr Harris might be expected to act together at some stage in the Debenhams saga. Mr Ronson is now waiting to see what the other participants do. Last week House of Fraser disclosed a stake of just over 5 per cent. "A large American retailer is also seriously considering a bid", said Mr Ronson.

IN BRIEF

Cash verdict on Sinclair

The future of Sir Clive Sinclair's Sinclair Research is likely to be decided this week after the computer company's annual report is verified by the auditors, Deloitte & Company. The accounts were expected before the end of May and will form the basis of negotiations for a £15 million cash injection. The company has been hit by retailers' overstocking and a decline in home computer sales this year. Sinclair makes the Spectrum and QL machines.

Airbus setback

British Caledonian plans to sell two A310 European airbuses and cancel an order for a third because they no longer suit its changes to a long-haul and short-haul service. It risks being penalized if the manufacturer, Airbus Industrie, a consortium of British, French, German and Spanish companies, has difficulty in selling the third A310 elsewhere but foresees no problem in not taking up an option for three more airbuses.

Exports switch

Britain's increasing search for business in Europe, and away from its former Commonwealth markets, is dramatically shown in a 10-year league table of the UK's Top 50 Export Markets, published by the Department of Trade and Industry. Its study, comparing 1974, the year after Britain joined the EEC, with last year shows EEC partners now occupy six of the top seven places among Britain's best customers. The United States continued as its biggest export market.

Tomorrow is the deadline for nominations to the Stock Exchange Council. A rebel faction is meeting today to draw up a list of alternative candidates in an effort to influence the decisions leading up to the so-called Big Bang in October next year.

Hope for pound

The pound will have bounced back to \$1.40 by 1987. That will put it at a level not reached since early June last year, before January's sterling crash brought the exchange rate close to one dollar to one pound, according to Lloyds Bank's economics department.

Policy attacked

Britain's monetary policy is in a mess, according to Laing and Cruickshank, the broker whose review calls for a broader measure of liquidity and the replacement of sterling M3 by M2.

NYSE threat

Employees on the New York Stock Exchange have voted 911 to 76 to strike at 8am tomorrow unless the organization improves its three-year contract offer. An exchange spokesman said there were no plans to increase the offer.

Details of BNOC replacement likely soon

By David Young Energy Correspondent

Details of at least four new oil-trading operations are expected to be announced by the end of this month to replace the British National Oil Corporation's role in handling oil output from the smaller North Sea producers.

Leading oil companies such as BP, Shell, Esso, Mobil and Conoco, which have large North Sea production, also have access to their own refineries in Britain.

Several other companies such as Occidental, Amoco, Texaco, Marathon and Fina also have no problem in disposing of their North Sea production through their network of refineries, but there are at least 40 companies producing oil from the North Sea which have depended on trading through BNOC.

Britain, which is among the largest of such companies, has no refining operation. But it has established an in-house trading operation and other large independents such as Tricor already have a high reputation in the oil trading area.

Smaller companies now have to decide how to dispose of their shares of the crude oil coming from the North Sea oil fields without the protection of BNOC setting an official price.

Many will be able to turn to the operator of the field they are involved in but, because of the way that North Sea licences are put together, there are often several alternatives.

The issue is also being clouded by the uncertainty over the world oil prices.

For that reason at least three of the big oil companies and a new group, supported by a leading bank, are now making presentations to the smaller companies to win the right to trade their crude.

The advantage to leading companies involved is that setting up such operations will consolidate and reduce the number of national prices set by the Oil Taxation Office - it has already said that a notional price will be set for each individual deal - while increasing the importance of free market prices.

Commodity dealers want protection rules waived

By Michael Prest, Financial Correspondent

London's commodity exchanges are lobbying the Government to exempt trade users of their markets from the full weight and costs of the proposed protection legislation.

In a campaign led by the London Commodity Exchange, the exchanges are arguing that the combined costs of complying with the full proposals as they stand would so increase overheads in depressed markets where commissions are already finely pared as to render British brokers uncompetitive.

The exchanges believe that the combined costs of membership of the Securities and Investments Board and the Association of Futures Brokers and Dealers, along with professional indemnity insurance, a compensation fund and oper-

ational requirements such as segregation of accounts, could be between £30,000 and £50,000 for each member.

Time is pressing because drafting the investor protection legislation is likely to start in about two months.

The exchanges have pointed out to the Department of Trade and Industry that there is already a worrying drift of business away from London to other centres, particularly in the US. Between the first five months of last year and the same period this year total volume on the LCE declined by 28 per cent to 1.22 million cleared contracts.

While accepting that private users of the markets, who account at most for 10 per cent of London's volume, must be

fully protected, the exchanges would like the trade users, who can protect themselves, to be spared the full rigour of the AFBD's rules and regulations.

One possibility is that all users of the markets would be offered the choice of waiving the AFBD rules. Private clients would be encouraged by their brokers not to waive their rights.

The trade department is understood to be sympathetic to the exchanges' case, not least because of their contributions to the balance of payments. But the Government so far has adhered to the position, which was a cardinal principal of Professor Laurence "Jim" Gower's investor protection recommendations, that all users should be subject to the same rules.

Philips gives 'buy European' warning

By John Lawless

The only hope for Europe's electronics industry in the face of increasing Japanese competition lies in persuading European markets and governments to buy domestic products, according to Philips, the Dutch electronics manufacturer.

That conclusion is the result of a confidential in-house study, a Philips spokesman said, and will be conveyed to a Dutch Government inquiry this week by Dr Wisse Dekker, the company's president.

The company spokesman

said: "There is an internal study in Philips arguing why the European governments have to do something to survive against Japanese competition."

Some, but not all, of its conclusions would be presented by Dr Dekker to the Commission for Economic Affairs.

He said that the Government was "afraid" of the consequences of those conclusions, but remained silent on whether the Philips president was to say factories would have to close unless concerted European action was taken.

"Europe has to do something", he said, adding that Japanese companies would face the same difficulties if they were made to make more of their products in Europe.

Philips has set 1990 as a target date when it believes that a European-wide manufacturing policy for the electronics industry must be established and practised, and estimates the cost of present nationally-oriented manufacturing systems to be tens of billions of pounds a year.

Virani takes over at Control

Mr Nazmu Virani, the chairman of the hotel-owning Virani Group and of the Belhaven Brewery Group, has added the chairmanship of Control Securities to his list of credits.

Mr Virani, no stranger to property, intends turning Control into what he describes as "one of the premier property companies in the UK".

This will involve selling all Control Securities' non-British and non-property investments.

Control should realize £4 million to £5 million from the sales which will be used to acquire a British company with mixed property assets.

Mr Virani has become chairman of Control Securities through its £5.7 million purchase of the freehold of Manchester Wholesale Centre from Zelva.

Yields on commercial property pinpoint UK's 'two nations'

By Judith Huntley, Commercial Property Correspondent

The "two nations" phenomenon is clearly confirmed by Jones Lang Wootton's latest analysis of overall returns on commercial property in Britain from 1961 to 1984. Average returns for industrial, office and retail property are all highest in the South-east at 13.7 per cent, 13.1 per cent and 12.6 per cent respectively.

The South-west does better for industrial space with a money weighted rate of return of 14.2 per cent. And shops in Scotland and East Anglia have virtually the same returns, at just over 12 per cent, as the South-east.

A new factor to emerge from the firm's survey of 1,300

properties is that returns on different types of property are converging. Greater differences in returns in respect of location and date of purchase exist than between various types of property, something not seen in the 1982 survey.

Between 1982 and 1983, 70 per cent of all properties bought were shops, reinforcing a trend going back to 1972. The relative buoyancy of high street retail values is responsible for this says the firm.

Central London shops have the highest overall return at 16.6 per cent. In the City of London and the West End, returns on offices at 14.5 per cent are much higher than in

the London suburbs, which have lower returns than the rest of the South-east. Industrial property in Berkshire, Hampshire and Surrey and close to the M25 motorway show the best returns at about 15 per cent.

The costs of occupying office space have risen by 7 per cent in the past year with average accommodation costs in London of £23 a sq ft compared with £9.85 a sq ft in the provinces. The City of London comes out at £51 a sq ft.

Debenham Tewson & Chinnock's April survey shows that office rents have risen faster than inflation for the first time since 1979, going up by 6.8 per cent on average.

China seeks British executives

Communist China is headhunting in Britain, with an invitation to British businessmen and bankers to give up their high salaries to go to work at Chinese rates of pay.

The offer has been made by a four-man delegation from the Foreign Experts Bureau in Peking, which came to London for talks with Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO).

The Chinese want to attract executives to work in their industry and financial circles, particularly in training institutes, so that China's growing international management sector can learn to think in Western business ways.

Mr Neil McIntosh, director of VSO, said that applicants would receive local Chinese rates of pay if they decided to go, and would live in blocks of flats occupied by Chinese professionals.

He confidently expects more applications than places to be filled under the scheme, although not necessarily from the mainstream of British industry.

Mr Gao Lianun, the bureau's external relations secretary, said: "In many areas of international business - whether it involves accountancy, investment, engineering, contracts and so forth - we need to get to know more about how you do it."

The bureau, set up in 1954, has so far attracted 45,000 foreigners to work in China.

New offer for Italian food group

From John Earle, Rome

The left-wing Lega delle Cooperative, whose 15,000 members report annual sales of £8 billion, is the latest contender for SME, the Italian state-owned food group. It is discussing its bid, whose size has not been disclosed, today with Professor Romano Prodi, chairman of SME's parent, the state holding group IRI.

The SME affair has shown up the Government's lack of a policy towards privatization.

At the end of April Signor Carlo de Benedetti of Olivetti signed a contract with IRI for his Industrie Buitoni Perugina to pay 497 billion lire (£202 million) for the control of SME.

Professor Prodi is a sympathizer of the Christian Democrats, the biggest party in the coalition, and government

approval was thought a formality. But it was withheld, and a 600 billion lire (£245 million) counter bid was soon mounted.

With Christian Democrats and Socialists ranged against each other, a group of Neapolitan entrepreneurs emerged, offering 620 billion lire (£253 million). After the fourth bid, from Lega, the outcome is more obscure than ever.

MARKET SUMMARY table with columns for STOCK MARKETS, BOARD MEETINGS, and CURRENCIES.

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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES Capitalization and week's change

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Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, Gross Dividend, Yield % P/E. Lists various stocks under categories like PROPERTY, BUILDING AND ROADS, DRAPERY AND STORES, etc.

Weekly Dividend table with columns: MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, Sunday Total.

BRITISH FUNDS table with columns: Stock, Price, Change, Yield % P/E.

SHORTS (Under Five Years) table with columns: Year, Price, Change, Yield % P/E.

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS table with columns: Year, Price, Change, Yield % P/E.

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INDEX-LINKED table with columns: Year, Price, Change, Yield % P/E.

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Table with columns: Capitalization, Company, Price, Change, Gross Dividend, Yield % P/E. Lists companies like British Airways, British Telecom, etc.

BUILDING AND ROADS table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Yield % P/E.

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CHEMICALS, PLASTICS table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Yield % P/E.

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DRAPERY AND STORES table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Yield % P/E.

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NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Yield % P/E.

Table with columns: Capitalization, Company, Price, Change, Gross Dividend, Yield % P/E.

OIL table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Yield % P/E.

OVERSEAS TRADERS table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Yield % P/E.

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERTG table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Yield % P/E.

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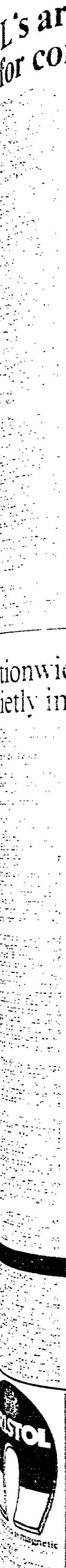
SHIPPING table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Yield % P/E.

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TEXTILES table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Yield % P/E.

TOBACCO table with columns: Company, Price, Change, Yield % P/E.



ORDINARY SHARES

IBL's arrival opens doors for computer leasing

Computer leasing, like franchising before it, is an industry that has had to come in from the cold. While leasing has made more and more sense as equipment has become obsolete more and more quickly, the very speed of change has raised questions about the best ways to measure the leasing companies' profits.

Most of those involved in the business admit that there are still some problems to unravel on the accountancy side, but the arrival on the stock market this week of IBL, Europe's second largest computer leasing group, has made the City realize that this mini-sector deserves serious attention.

That should in itself help the shares of the five quoted companies in the field. As the stockbrokers' research factories begin to churn out a steady stream of in-depth studies, investor interest will be awakened and more informed investment decisions will be taken. And, as James Capel, Laing & Crutchank, and Rowe & Pitman have made clear recently, computer leasing still has some way to go before it touches the peak of its current profit cycle.

But it is as well to examine the thorns before smothering the roses. Apart from the IBL share debut, this week is notable for one other event: finance directors of several computer leasing companies are due to meet to see if they can hammer out an agreed approach to accounting, and in particular the fraught question of residual values.

Computer equipment is normally leased under contracts lasting three to five years, and the lease payments are designed to recoup the "new" price of the equipment over that period, and its book value written down to nothing.

But in practice a computer repossessed by the leasing company at the end of the lease still has value: it can be sold or even leased again as second-

Table with 4 columns: Company, Share price, PE ratio. Rows include Atlantic, Comcap, Dataserv, IBL, United Leasing.

hand. This process is accelerated by the leasing companies' habit of encouraging their customers to upgrade to an even slicker machine before the lease has run its course.

The problem is how to bring those left-over, or residual, values into the profits. The layman might think that the simple answer would be to wait until the computer had been farmed out to the second-hand market, when the residual value is known for certain.

This, sadly, will not do. The argument is that it would favour those shareholders who bought into a leasing company when the residuals were coming through, at the expense of those who had sold earlier. Fairer all round, on that basis, to take a slice of the residual profit throughout the original lease.

As those in computer leasing are quick to point out, this problem is not unique to them, it arises in a more acute form because of the sheer growth of the computer industry and the speed at which new and better products are being designed. This makes it harder to predict what those residual values will be.

The difficulty of establishing residual values for computer leases should shrink as the market gradually stabilises. IDC, the US firm has come to be recognized as an acceptable source of independent valuations, akin to Glass's Guide in the motor trade.

What remains for the finance directors to discuss this week is a common treatment of those agreed values in their accounts, so that investors and analysts

can more readily make comparisons of the companies' performance.

Comcap, for instance, manages to ignore residuals altogether, partly because it goes for shorter leases and pre-sells some of the residual values.

If wide-ranging agreement were reached, it would spare the sort of explanation occupying the last few paragraphs.

The principal debate concerns diversification. Some City observers frown on this, arguing that the shares should or should not be bought because of the firms' prospects in computer leasing. But leasing is becoming an accepted form of off-balance-sheet finance in all sorts of areas.

One, nonetheless, in the shorter time span which equity investors employ, any shift into leasing cars or medical equipment serves to take the edge off the undidit glamour of the computer trade. Sir Clive Sinclair's recent trials notwithstanding.

The most remarkable feature to emerge from these cross-currents is that the four quoted shares stand on such similar ratings. In those circumstances, two tactics are recommended: take a spread of shares in the sector, at least three, and buy them whenever one or more is out of line.

On that basis it will probably be worth picking up IBL, which has deliberately been pitched at an attractive level on its offer price of 140p. That price may not be held initially, but the shares are good value up to 180p.

United's shares are also worth buying, as their rating has been artificially depressed by the fact that the group's results come out a few months after its rivals. The 1984-85 figures should be announced next month, and the shares should have a good run up to them.

William Kay City Editor



Maurice Jarre: Neve user

Consolation in music for ESE

By Alison Eadie

Energy Services and Electronics, the electronic components rental company which has recommended a £44 million bid from Brammer could find itself in a stronger position to defend itself against predators if the Brammer bid fails.

Neve Audio, ESE's loss-making console offshoot, has attracted many more bidders than expected since being put up for sale a few weeks ago.

The digital console, which cost about £3 million to develop, is operating in only one place - CTS Studios in Wembley - but famous names in popular and classical music are beating an ever broader path to CTS's door. Last week Maurice Jarre, composer of blockbuster film scores, including Dr Zhivago and the Oscar-winning title track for David Lean's Passage to India, was there mixing the music for Mad Max III.

Sound can be picked up from more than 60 points in a recording chamber and harmonized in the console. The sound is purer, and the console can be reprogrammed with a floppy disc in seconds instead of hours manually.

Guesses are that Neve should fetch about £5 million. That would reduce ESE's steep borrowings of £11.5 million and put it in much better shape.

TEMPUS Gilt-edged: the party is over - but there is always another

The great gilt country-house party is finally coming to an end. One by one, the guests are leaving the chateau. Some are in better shape than others. It has been a very long binge.

Houses like Gerrard & National are in fine fettle, and heading off for the next bash, to be thrown by some American chappies from New Amsterdam. Can the new boys play cricket? If not, they soon will.

Shrewdly, Union Discount passed the hat round, just as the festivities were drawing to a close, raising enough mazzetta to keep playing chimney. Overseer revelers like Clive have had extra funds pressed into their hands by the ha-ha.

Some admit to feeling seedy and are opting to sit the next one out. Smith St Aubyn had this to say recently: "The only parts of the company which were profitable are those which are not traditional...Bills, CDs and gilts all lost money...We have no wish to become a market maker in gilts on our own."

David Campion, retiring Government Bill Broker, stands on the steps of the great hall, waving with a moist kerchief. Echoing the sense of an age passing every bit as poignantly as the sound of axes in the Cherry Orchard, he said recently: "For over 60 years, the Seccombe senior partner, chairman or his deputy has called on the Bank at 10.15 each morning to discuss the Bank's market business, and has thereafter conducted that business on the Bank's behalf. This relationship will cease on January 1, 1986 and both the Bank and ourselves regret this."

Yet, in a funny kind of way, the party with the Americans may be just as agreeable. It is all a matter of emphasis and sporting the changes. Some of the new-fangled stuff which has bedeviled the market in recent years may soon be swept away.

The Thatcher regime came into office with a number of ideas about capital markets. The bulk of these peppered the gilt market in the early eighties. There were to be no more taps at the long end, because it was too expensive, and no more intervention in foreign exchange markets, because sterling had to find its own level. A medium term financial strategy would impose order on chaos. Flucking yet another innovation from a long list, the Government Broker was instructed to sell index-linked gilts.

The more the market knew, the more it demanded. Real returns rose sharply. No one was prepared to take the long view, and hence liquidity in the gilt market, in the classical sense, was reduced. Surprise, the vital element in Britain's traditional - and cheap - funding techniques, dwindled.

The introduction of new capital into the market should alter the relationship between Government Broker and market - or market makers - yet again. Both sides have a vested interest in restricting the flow of price-sensitive general information, because of the enhanced advantage it might give to competitors. Presumably, the authorities will be only too willing to accede to the unspoken wishes of the market. Cynics now assume that future data will be more of less worthless.

Stray signs here and there point to the shape of things to come. Preliminary money supply figures this week were heavily cut down in terms of explanations, compared with previous months. The Government "health warning" backed on to top stock issues allows the authorities to do anything they like without liability, presumably a preemptive strike against the Americans and their scrivener.

The market was given far more information than it had ever enjoyed before. Index-linked gilts helped traders to work out the level of real returns, a piece of intelligence not made available before. By juggling around with the domestic counterpoints to monetary growth, the market could work out the funding programme on a month by month basis. An embargo on sales of 21st century gilts trapped the authorities into funding on an even tighter band of maturities.

On one level, this means that the market is now flying blind, with no insurance policy built into returns against a sudden collapse. On the other hand, it implies that gilts have already collapsed. On the other hand, it implies that gilts have already adjusted to a changed set of economic imperatives, notably that Britain is now following an exchange-rate interest-rate regime.

The small print of recent government pronouncements does not discourage the view that the old regime is dead. From 1986 onwards, money supply figures will be calculated on a calendar month basis, rather than, as now, in banking months. Statistical runs of any validity will not be available until the late eighties after the change.

The pious hope behind this covert destructive assault on the Medium Term Financial Strategy is that huge real returns built into current yields will be slashed, as the authorities manoeuvre against the far less cumbersome background of an exchange-rate interest-rate backdrop. Hence the next gilt party could be a fairly jolly affair, and certainly far less complicated.

Yet, a paradox lurks at the heart of this perception. The chief architect of many of the changes imposed on the market was the then Financial Secretary, Mr Nigel Lawson, now Chancellor of the Exchequer. New capital may be flowing into the market, but the huge investment he made in the MTFSA is now worth little.

Back to the party. The carriages rattle about, but as in the Cherry Orchard, a small figure is still wandering round the labyrinthine corridors of the house, looking lost. Can the Chancellor find his way out in time for the next gilts shindig?

Analysis of market movements over the last year show some odd changes in the composition of present gilt yields. Gilt yields are made up of a real return element, an inflation adjustment factor, and a risk premium. Nine months ago, the risk premium was a fairly constant 1.8 per cent throughout the list of maturities. Now it has virtually disappeared.

On one level, this means that the market is now flying

This advertisement is published by S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. on behalf of Bunzl plc.

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BUNZL VALUES BRAMMER

AT...

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BRAMMER VALUES BRAMMER

AT...

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USM REVIEW

Nationwide Leisure slips back quietly into the main market

The USM has lost one of its most colourful companies. Quietly, with the minimum fuss, Nationwide Leisure has, after a gap of almost two decades, regained its full listing.

Its two-year USM excursion has been the quietest and most peaceful period of its post-war existence.

The company started life in the 1920s as the Scottish Greyhound Racing Co. But it was as the Equitable Industrial Co of Scotland that it hit the headlines in the 1960s.

It experienced a succession of often dramatic boardroom upsets. And its shareholders' meetings, which seemed to occur with monotonous frequency, were renowned for their uproar.

Directors came and went and shareholders became more critical and excited. Eventually, the Stock Exchange grew tired of this and the company's shares were banished to the wilderness. Its share quote was suspended and then cancelled. Equitable, with 3,000 shareholders, and owning greyhound stadiums, pawnbroker shops and casinos, as well as other odds and ends, was expected to sink quietly into oblivion.

But no. The Stock Exchange may have washed its hands of the whole affair but Nationwide, as the company was to become, continued to court the headlines.

In the 1970s it moved into the caravan industry and funded off-bids from Mr David Wick's British Car Auction Group and was approached by other would-be bidders. It got embroiled in a row over Welsh property and there were more ructions when Mr Werner Rey, a controversial Swiss financier, gained control.

There followed merger talks with D. M. Lancaster, a former retail group which had moved into the holiday world and was

also under the Rey influence. But in the event DML went to Intasum Leisure Group.

Mr Rey faded from the scene and under the guidance of Mr Vincent Cobb, chairman, Nationwide - now a broadly based holiday group - became keenly acquisitive.

It achieved a partial relisting in 1978 when it joined the special dealing facility share market which the Stock Exchange was promoting. Two years ago it switched to the USM.

The 1960s suspension price was the equivalent of a few old pennies. Its first special dealing price was 6p. When this reborn company moved to the USM its shares stood at 21p. Now they are 92p.

As Nationwide, with a stock market valuation of £10 million, departs the flow of USM newcomers continues.

Tomorrow, details are due to be published of Prontaprint Holdings, a franchise group created by Mr Edwin Thirwell, Equity Finance Trust and Springmount Vickers, the broker, are placing shares in the company which made profits of £600,000 in the year to last March.

Mr Thirwell has enjoyed a remarkable business career. He started in the 1960s working at his father's Newcastle-upon-Tyne garage. One of its prime functions was preparing ice cream vans.

In the event Mr Thirwell started his own Mr Whippy mobile ice cream business which he sold to Forte Holdings, now Trusthouse Forte.

A brief spell followed as a farmer in Antigua and then in 1971 he started Prontaprint, an instant print business with a shop at Newcastle.

Prontaprint shops followed and today the company has 281 branches in this country. It also has two

other franchise operations - Poppies, a cleaning service, and Fudge Kitchen, a confectionery business.

Prontaprint, based in Jersey where Mr Thirwell lives, also has operations in Australia, France, West Germany (where it is growing rapidly) and the Middle East.

Ahead of the placing Atlantic Assets Trust and the South Yorkshire County Council pension fund own 40 per cent of the capital. They moved in when Mr Thirwell's co-founder retired in 1981. Then profits were £150,000, a gain of 150 per cent on the previous year's performance.

Cranbrook Electronic Holdings, which distributes electronic components, is also due to publish its prospectus this week.

The company is the creation of Mr and Mrs Tony Diamond who started the business nine years ago with capital of just £3,000.

It is the latest USM offering from United Trust and Credit, one of the over-the-counter financial groups making such an impression on the market. Raphael Zorn is the broker to the issue.

Another UTC issue in the USM frame is John Michael Design.

Most share certificates are so plain that they must make any designer shudder. Well JMD, born out of the John Michael menswear chain which came to grief, has designed its own certificates and is offering framed specimens to guests at the launch party.

The company carries out design work for a wide range of clients, ranging from banks to hairdressing salons. Strauss, Turnbull and Co is broker to the issue.

Derek Pain Tables, page 16

COMPANY NEWS

● EDBRO (HOLDINGS): Final 4.5p making 6.5p (6p) for the year to March 31. Figures in millions of pounds: Sales 24.0 (21.3); Trading profit 2.3 (2.6). Interest paid 0.1 (same). Pretax profit 2.2 (2.5). Tax 0.3 (0.4). Shareholders' earnings 1.9 (2.1). EPS 2.2p (2.6p). Assets per share 154p (140p). The board reports that last year's results benefited from a large, exceptional order. If this is excluded from the comparison, sales and profits actually increased. Markets were

generally static and competition was fierce, so these results are encouraging. ● CYSTIC FIBROSIS INVESTMENT TRUST: For the year to December 31, 1984. Dividends, deposit interest and commission £87,224 (£75,617). Pretax profit £52,278 (£48,124). After management expenses, £24,946 (£27,493), including debenture interest of £14,000. Tax £18,981 (£14,316). Net assets value on December 21, 1984 344.3p (308.4p).

● McLEOD RUSSEL: Six months to March 31 (18 months to Sept 30, 1984). Interest 3p on increased capital (total dividends of 8.62p last time). Figures in £000. Turnover 12,467 (40,621). Pretax profit 9,610 (12,018).

● C & W WALKER HOLDINGS: Results for 53 weeks to Feb 2 (compared with 52 weeks to Jan 28, 1984). There is no dividend in respect of the 53 weeks, but the rights issue documents forecast a return to dividends for the year to Feb 1, 1986. Figures in £000. Turnover 7,411 (7,269). Pretax profit 156 (81).

● ACSIS JEWELLERY: Figures in £000. Turnover 4,864 for the year to Jan 31 (6,534 for the previous 18 months). Pretax profit 109 (69). Acsis has entered into a subscription agreement (subject to shareholders' approval) for the Birmingham Mint to subscribe for 1 million convertible preference shares of £1 each. The new shares are convertible into ordinary shares over a maximum period of 10 years from date of subscription agreement, at 34p per share. An exercise in full of the rights would give Birmingham Mint a 35 per cent stake in the enlarged share capital.

● AMBER INDUSTRIAL HOLDINGS: Year to March 31. Final dividend 4p (3.5p), making 6p (5.5p). Figures in £000. Turnover 7,081 (5,995). Pretax profit 696 (659).

BRITOL logo and text: The attraction is magnetic. Expanding or relocating your business? For some invaluable advice, contact Mike West, Bristol's Director of Economic Development, Bristol House, 54 George Road, Bristol BS1 5UY. Tel: (0273) 297630 Telex: 449714 BRIDEG D

Table with 2 columns: Bank Name, Rate. Rows include ARN Bank, Adam & Company, Barclays, BCCI, Citibank Savings, Consolidated Creds, Continental Trust, Co-operative Bank, C. Hoare & Co, Lloyds Bank, Midland Bank, Nat Westminster, TSB, Williams & Glyn's, Citibank NA.

TOBACCO

Shines in England... Wilander shows a maturity beyond his years to regain title... From Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent, Paris

Wilander shows a maturity beyond his years to regain title

From Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent, Paris... Mats Wilander, aged 20, has regained the French championship. He beat last year's winner, Ivan Lendl, by 3-6, 6-4, 6-2, 6-2, in three hours and 13 minutes in a final that began in light rain and was bedevilled by a gusty wind and sharp variations in lighting and temperatures as clouds hustled over the Roland Garros Stadium.



Wilander: on the way to his four-set triumph

The wind affected the service toss of both players. Lendl has the higher toss and is more dependent on his first service, so he suffered most. He was also playing a far more mature and versatile Wilander than the adolescent who, in 1982, became the youngest player ever to win the title. Since then, Wilander has twice been champion of Australia. Increasing competence and confidence in the forecourt had made him more willing to attack short returns. Wilander was also learning how to use the short angles.

Beckenham bloom... Simon Barnes... Beckenham is the right place for Asambell Croft. The glam little tennis club from Farnborough, with her pastel colours, her baby-pink reading chair, her swish of a crinkly hat, is rather more Beckenham than Ted Hughes. And Saturday was a classic English summer day: the ramble of distant thunder, the rattle of nearby suburbs, the hum of the motorway rolling overhead, the rhododendrons shining in their over-topped gardens, and the great new hope of English tennis being beaten by a powerful foreigner.

Mayotte has a new mental approach

By David Powell... Tim Mayotte is warning up nicely for Wimbledon. Only the game's top names have bettered his record over the last four years as he has twice reached the quarter-finals, once to semi-finals and once to the last 16. Yesterday he won the Kentish Times tournament at Beckenham, putting forward strong evidence to suggest that he will again be a singles contender when the Wimbledon championships enter their second week.

Beckenham bloom

Simon Barnes... Beckenham is the right place for Asambell Croft. The glam little tennis club from Farnborough, with her pastel colours, her baby-pink reading chair, her swish of a crinkly hat, is rather more Beckenham than Ted Hughes. And Saturday was a classic English summer day: the ramble of distant thunder, the rattle of nearby suburbs, the hum of the motorway rolling overhead, the rhododendrons shining in their over-topped gardens, and the great new hope of English tennis being beaten by a powerful foreigner.

England run out of breath and ideas

From Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent, Mexico City... Mexico... England... England, who had not lost to Mexico for 36 years, finished with the wooden spoon in the three-nation tournament, known as the Aztec 2000, after an increasingly disappointing performance here yesterday afternoon. The Italians, who had already returned home for domestic football, were crowned as the winners in their absence by virtue of their superior goal difference.

Tottenham beat Italians... Melbourne (Reuters) - English club Tottenham Hotspur... Tottenham Hotspur beat Udinese, 1-0, in the first leg of the semi-final of the UEFA Cup on Saturday.

Hilditch strengthens his claims to Test place

By Marcus Williams... LEICESTER: The Australian, with seven first-class wickets in hand, over 300 runs and a Test place... Hilditch strengthened his claim to a Test place by scoring 56 and stumping the captain, which was the first Test match, which starts on Thursday.

Lloyd hammers out his reply

By Ivo Tennant... As the weathermen said, temperatures have reached the dizzy heights of the norm for early April. There was an abandonment at Ilford after the match had been reduced to 28 overs a side, so spoiling a memorable innings by Clive Lloyd.

Warwick recover lost poise

By Peter Ball... EDGBASTON: Warwickshire (4 pts) beat Hampshire by five wickets... After their discouraging start at the hands of Essex and Gloucestershire in Saturday's championship match, Warwickshire recovered some of their poise yesterday.

Trevino's career best shot

By Mitchell Platt... The phenomenal Lee Trevino captured the Dunhill British Masters at Woburn Golf and Country Club yesterday with a shot of such sheer brilliance that he immediately dominated it, probably the finest, in the circumstances, that he has played throughout his illustrious career.

Javed in his element

By Richard Streton... Ebbw Vale: Glamorgan (4pts) beat Worcestershire by 22 runs... Javed Miandad, with a licence to improvise, was in his element yesterday in this rain-disrupted John Player's League match, which was reduced to 21 overs a side.

OTHER JOHN PLAYER SCOREBOARDS

Table with multiple columns showing cricket scores for various matches including Middlesex v Derbyshire, Yorkshire v Sussex, and Somerset v Gloucestershire.

Zimbabwe warm up in the Parks

Amid all the commotion over Bodyline and the Benson and Hedges Zimbabwean cricket team slipped unnoticed into the country last week (Ivo Tennant writes). They began the first match of a hectic seven week tour in the Parks on Saturday, and found Oxford University's batting less brittle than has sometimes been the case of late.

Useful performances by British hopefuls

It is still early days to be talking about the probable selection of the three boats for Britain's Admiral Cup team, but the selectors will have seen some useful pointers in Christchurch Bay at the weekend. Four races were sailed, in winds that varied from moderate to fresh, and half a dozen or so boats were clearly better than the remainder of the 23 contenders.

Saturday's scores

Table showing cricket scores for various matches including Warwickshire v Hampshire, Essex v Lancashire, and Somerset v Gloucestershire.

John Gidman's contract

John Gidman, Manchester United's 31-year-old full back has signed a new two-year contract.

GOLF

McGimpsey looks a Walker Cup asset

By John Hennessy
The signs are that in Garth McGimpsey (pronounced with a soft G) of Northern Ireland, the United Kingdom has thrown up an amateur champion of rare quality. He has developed late - he is now 29 - but since he has no desire to turn professional he is sure to be around for some time to bolster the Walker Cup and Eisenhower Trophy (world championship) team.

McGuigan - special champion

By Srikumar Sen, Boxing Correspondent

Ensenio Pedroza, the legendary World Boxing Association featherweight champion from Panama, who had grown in the mind of Barry McGuigan into untrainable, godlike proportions best viewed from a respectable distance with the video screen in between, was unceremoniously reduced to an all too frail human scale by the Irishman at Loftus Road on Saturday.



Head to head: McGuigan attacks while Pedroza seeks an opening

It was a remarkable victory for McGuigan, who only last week said, with typical deference and humility: "If I could fight just a little bit like Roberto Duran, I would be world champion." We know now that he can fight more than a little bit like that other great patriot of Pedroza and that McGuigan has finally dispelled all self-doubt about his ability. Yet afterwards, as one listened to McGuigan reliving the greatest moment of his life, one realized that the world champion would still keep on watching Pedroza on the video screen to keep on learning. And if he can carry on improving at this rate he could, if he so wished, hold the title longer than any other postwar champion from these Isles. "This man is going to be champion for a long time," Fernando Viso, the Venezuelan judge, who gave McGuigan nine rounds, said Pedroza three and three even, said Ferdie Pacheco, the NBC's chief commentator, who made a special trip to see the contest even though "NBC lost the fight and it bounced into ABC's lap".

And he believes that McGuigan is going to be one of the great world champions. "We followed McGuigan from the start because we know he is something special, like you know with Ali and Leonard. And he proved it tonight", Dr Pacheco said. "Pedroza's performance was of the highest quality. He boxed like a true champion. And the way he survived the knockdown in the seventh; he did not run or hold, he came back and won the next round. I'll put him on television in his next fight. He is still great. Nobody was the loser. Everybody won, England won, Ireland won, Pedroza and boxing won."

Boxing certainly finished top, for it is reported that over 20 million viewers in the British Isles alone saw a display from both men that surpassed in excitement even the Cooper-Ali contest. It is perhaps one of the finest results in the British ring after Turpin's victory over Robinson, particularly when one realized that McGuigan boxed with a damaged left elbow that prevented him from training late, and from landing those explosive hooks to the body on Saturday night. But the boxing of Pedroza, and in spite of the fact that he was clearly feeling the effects of trying to make nine stone for the twentieth time and was not fully himself, was delight from beginning to end. How the referee scored it 11 to McGuigan, two to Pedroza and two even, and the judges made it 10-4-1 and 9-3-3, is beyond comprehension. The rhythm with which Pedroza parried and tied up McGuigan's best shots in little knots and jabbed and hooked and uppercut was such that it seemed that if the bout went on for 15 rounds like that McGuigan would get a boxing lesson. But to cries of "ice bag, ice bag", exhorting McGuigan to remember Ken Buchanan's advice, McGuigan stayed cool and forced the pace to exhaust the champion by the seventh. As Pedroza straightened up, McGuigan remembering Gerald Hayes's coaching, fainted with the left and clouted him with a long right. It was a cracker. Pedroza's serious and handsome face suddenly went into repose as he collapsed. He got up at three, took a count of eight, and boxed and kidded McGuigan out of finishing the job.

Pedroza tried every trick to relieve his aching legs: every time he went back to his corner he chewed ice, forgot his gum shield and went back for it, had a sideswipe with the referee, and was late coming out round after round. There was an engaging roughness about his antics which was much more successful for Britain than expected. An opportunistic stage was at Birmingham by local rider Adrian Timmins on Saturday was just recompense for the efforts that earned him tenth place in the final classification. His performance helped the Great Britain amateur team to second place in the team race behind Poland. The Soviet Union were only fourth. The outstanding British performance came from Paul Watson and Paul Curran, respectively third and fourth in the individual standings. Watson, from Milton Keynes, confirmed the potential he had shown in his first Milk Race last year. Curran, from Stockton-on-Tees, competes at the 1984 Olympic Games as a track rider, but his conversion to road racing and his resultant success has opened up more possibilities for this quiet, confident performer. Watson, from Milton Keynes, 105 miles; A. Timmins (GB), 47.50 min (Spain); J. Watson (GB), 48.30 min (Spain); J. Watson (GB), 49.30 min (Spain); J. Watson (GB), 50.30 min (Spain); J. Watson (GB), 51.30 min (Spain); J. Watson (GB), 52.30 min (Spain); J. Watson (GB), 53.30 min (Spain); J. Watson (GB), 54.30 min (Spain); J. Watson (GB), 55.30 min (Spain); J. Watson (GB), 56.30 min (Spain); J. Watson (GB), 57.30 min (Spain); J. Watson (GB), 58.30 min (Spain); J. Watson (GB), 59.30 min (Spain); J. Watson (GB), 60.30 min (Spain); J. Watson (GB), 61.30 min (Spain); J. Watson (GB), 62.30 min (Spain); J. Watson (GB), 63.30 min (Spain); J. Watson (GB), 64.30 min (Spain); J. Watson (GB), 65.30 min (Spain); J. Watson (GB), 66.30 min (Spain); J. Watson (GB), 67.30 min (Spain); J. 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HORIZONS The Times guide to career choice

A new view to partnership

Sally Watts on a scheme to link graduates with industrialists

High-calibre young science graduates can boost their careers by joining the Teaching Company Scheme (TCS), which creates partnerships between industry and academic centres...

Each company, partnered by a university, polytechnic or other higher education centre in its area - some 60 take part - provide expertise in updating company processes and making it more competitive.

TCS is supported by the Science and Engineering Research Council, the Department of Trade and Industry and business. An Associate, appointed to an academic centre, gains many benefits: a relatively good salary to which the company contributes...

Each Associateship lasts two years, at the end of which, graduates' job prospects are greatly enhanced. They may be offered a job by their company or funded on postgraduate research. Some submit their work as a higher degree subject.

It is no coincidence that all the graduates, whose careers are described below, sought business as well as technological expertise. Sally Watts, a 25-year-old graduate of Surrey University's first Associate in 1980, TCS provided the opportunity she wanted of working in industry and acquiring a sound basic knowledge of business...

When her Associateship finishes in December, she hopes to obtain a junior management post. One of her advantages, he believes, is that it concentrates the Associate's mind on his or her next move. 'You have to decide whether you want to go or stay. Many people get 'big company blues', which makes them lethargic, but this forces you to consider your future.'

Philip is also interested in business and his training includes such skills as writing reports and communications, making presentations at company meetings, for example, and he absorbs business methods by watching his manager at work. As he says, the experience he is getting as an Associate, coupled with the prospect of a higher degree, will make him increasingly eligible for future jobs.

Dr Derek Sheldon, head of mechanical and production engineering at Huddersfield Polytechnic, observes that TCS not only sharpens Associates in terms of new technology and business insight. 'It also brings them to a particular stage which they wouldn't otherwise reach until much later,' he says.

Michael Bourne, who is 29, followed his double honours degree in engineering, production and economics with a part-time MBA at Aston Management Centre. He began as a graduate trainee, then became assistant production manager, but in 1982 joined Thames Board Mills, at Purfleet, Essex, as an Associate.

'My two years gave me experience of the sharp end of technology and an insight into how senior management makes decisions,' he says. He aims to combine technology with business and eventually reach board level in a manufacturing industry.

Jeremy Ward, 25, began his Associateship at the same firm 17 months ago helping to implement the new system to solve business problems outlined by Michael Bourne and train staff to use them. Jeremy had followed a mechanical engineering degree with an MBA from Bradford, and was looking for an opening into management jobs.

'TCS is giving me a wide overall picture of what's happening in industry,' he says. 'It's incredible how much I've learned about business. Things I did for the MBA are now falling into place,' adds Jeremy, who would like one day to run a business, preferably linked with engineering.

Professor Greyham Bryant, director of Imperial College's industrial systems group in London, which had cooperated with the Thames Board Mills research comments: 'With a good firm and a good university group, graduates get excellent experience that would otherwise be very difficult to come by.'

Further details from Teaching Company Directorate, Science and Engineering Research Council, Polaris House, North Star Avenue, Swindon SN2 1ET. 0793 26222.

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EDUCATIONAL COURSES

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Communications Policy: International and Comparative
Communication Technology and Policy Implications
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Application forms and further information are available from Professor Jeremy Thorne, Department of Social Science and Humanities, The City University, Northampton Square, London EC2N 2EJ.

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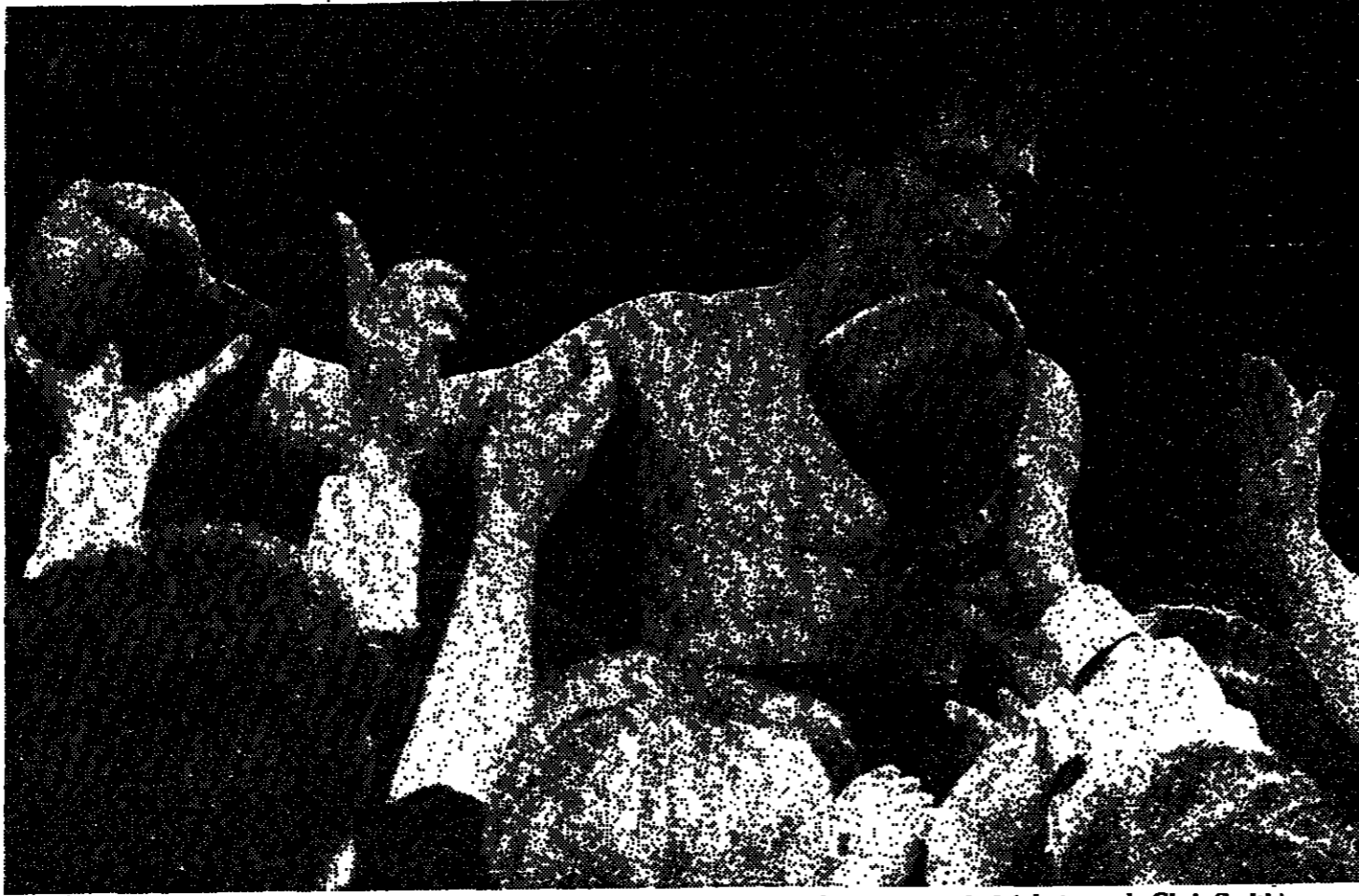
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Britain charts Europe's future

Continued from page 1... member states required to discuss foreign policy together. There would be a small permanent secretariat based in Brussels...

Irish united by McGuigan victory



Hall the champion: McGuigan after his win; with his wife Sandra; and at the age of 12 (photograph: Chris Smith).

Continued from page 1... "I feel great. It has been something that I don't think many people have been able to achieve. I don't want to get into the political end of it. I'm a sportsman and that's the end of it..."



(Photograph: Peter Trievnor)

If there is any irony in the fact that the most unifying event in Ireland's recent violent history is a championship fight, it does not seem likely to deter the week of celebrations across all divides now being planned...

Peres forces SLA to release French colonel

Continued from page 1... Unifil people to secure the release Amal people held by the SLA... Mr Peres said, Amal's conditions for the release of the men are the release of all resistance fighters held by the Israelis and the SLA...

Village voice Who will protect them from Party or landlord?

In his column from a poor Ganges village in the shadows of the Himalayas, VICTOR ZORZA, the distinguished journalist, writes about the joys and sorrows of Indian village life. Here he describes the dilemma of tenants in search of a champion

The landlord had kept me waiting just long enough to show he was a person of consequence, and I disliked him on sight. Yet he answered my questions as if he had nothing to hide. Was I prejudiced?

The Party had promised that its lawyers would help him, but that, he reasoned, was because it wanted publicity for the struggle. Ultimately, the Communists might leave the village and he would be on his own.

Exposing himself to bribes and blackmail... But Bhola demurred. To ask to see the land register could stir up a hornet's nest. The patwari, the land revenue official...

"I am only a poor human being," he had addressed the landlord. "Only you can help me in no one else will. I come to you with a humble prayer. To you it is a small, worthless scrap of land, but it's all I possess..."

"Then go straight to court," I said. Bhola shook his head. It depended on so many things - whether you had a good lawyer, though even if you did, the rich man's lawyer would probably be more cunning...

The Party proclaimed Bhola a traitor. The landlord, it said, was using Bhola as bait, trying to lure the villagers to his own side, to make them desert the Communists...

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements... The Duke of Edinburgh, Senior Fellow of the Fellowship of Engineering, attends the opening session of the Fifth International Convocation of National Engineers...

New exhibition

Spitting Image; Norwich School of Art Gallery, Saint George St, Norwich; Mon to Sat 10 to 5 (ends July 3).

Rugs and wallhangings by Ros

Auty and Mary Greene; Glebe House, Main St, Ripley, Harrogate; Tues to Sun 10 to 5 (ends June 23).

Nature notes

Gardens are full of young, speckled robins listening to the thin alarm calls of their parents. They are fed for a week after they leave the nest before they begin to fend for themselves...

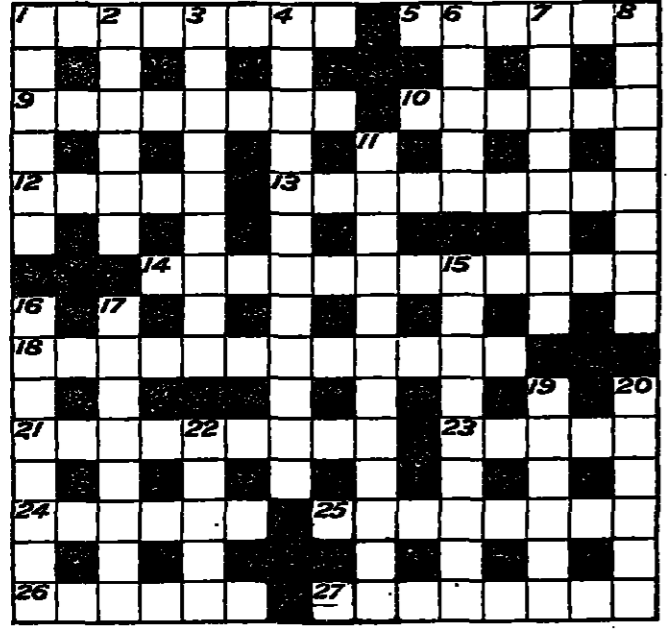
Roads

Wales and West: M4: Contraflow between junctions 16 and 17, Swindon to Chippenham. With delays A55: Road construction on Holywell bypass at Caerwys in Clwyd; diversion. A39: Various lane closures with temporary lights at Bodmin bypass, Bodelvaun, Cornwall...

Weather forecast

A ridge of high pressure will move into the British Isles from the W, followed by further rain. 6am to midnight: London, SE, central S, central W England, Midlands, Channel Islands: Some bright or sunny intervals, but with heavy becoming cloudy later; wide W moderate; max temp 16C (62F)...

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,759



- 1 Kitchen-hand shocks the elder statesman, say (8). 2 Plain girl takes precedence (6). 3 Inflexible instrument with only two notes (8). 4 Administered a county - but not with this money (6). 5 A longing, almost, to take the same case (5). 6 Porn raids may be precipitate (9). 7 Following complaint, evil goddess becomes loving (12). 8 Road junction in centre is to change (12). 9 Chucker-out had his head bitten off by girl, he may tell us (9). 10 A month without a note from the players (5). 11 Roofing for this place of worship? On the contrary (6). 12 A professional traitor, the president (8). 13 Something chewed over by member returning to club (6). 14 An Ethiopian's hunting partner once so unapproachable (8).

The Solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 16,758 will appear next Saturday

The papers

The Daily Mail says: "There is now a widespread impression that the radical reforming zeal of this Government has run into the sands." It adds: "Recently the Government has been wobbling over the repeal of the Shop Act, decontrolling rents of new properties and abolition of wages councils. In all these cases the Cabinet majority seems to be afraid of noisy interest groups when they should be thinking of convincing the great mass of the electorate..."

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Debate on the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act. Lords (2.30): Local Government Bill, report, first day.

The pound

Table with exchange rates for various currencies: Australia \$, Austria S, Belgium F, Canada C, Denmark D, Deutsches M, Finland Mk, France F, German DM, Greece Dr, Hong Kong \$, Italy L, Japanese Y, Netherlands Gld, New Zealand \$, Portugal Esc, South Africa R, Spanish Ptas, Swedish Kr, Swiss Fr, USA \$.

Bond winners

The winners in this week's draw for Premium Bond prizes: £100,000: 15WB 989990 (winner lives in North Yorkshire); £50,000: 27AK 317103 (London Borough of Southwark); £25,000: 14VS 644019 (Leeds).

Anniversaries

Births: Gustave Courbet, painter, Ornans, 1819; Andre Derain, painter, Chatou, France, 1880; Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, Corfu, 1921; Deaths: Len Cadden, poet, Lisbon, 1980; Richard John Seddon, Prime Minister of New Zealand 1893-1906, at sea, 1906; Antonio Gaudí, architect, Barcelona, 1926; Frederic Delius, Gries-sur-Loringe, France, 1934; Sir Robert Borden, Prime Minister of Canada, 1911-20, Ottawa, 1937.

Portfolio

Times Portfolio rules are as follows: 1. Times Portfolio is a service of The Times... 2. Times Portfolio is a service of The Times... 3. Times Portfolio is a service of The Times...

London

Yesterday: Temp: max 8 am to 6 pm, 17C (63F); min 6 pm to 8 pm, 10C (50F); Humidity: 6 pm, 42%; Wind: SE, 11 to 18 mph; Rain: 2.4 mm; Sun: 5.10 to 8.10; Fog: 1.10 to 1.30; Visibility: 1001 to 1422 m.

Highest and lowest

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Harlow, 18C (64F); lowest day temp: Llanelli, 10C (50F); Highest night temp: Harlow, 12C (54F); lowest night temp: Llanelli, 4C (39F); Highest wind speed: Harlow, 18 mph; lowest wind speed: Llanelli, 4 mph; Highest sun: Harlow, 5.10 to 8.10; lowest sun: Llanelli, 5.10 to 8.10; Highest fog: Harlow, 1.10 to 1.30; lowest fog: Llanelli, 1.10 to 1.30; Highest visibility: Harlow, 1001 to 1422 m; lowest visibility: Llanelli, 1001 to 1422 m.

Around Britain

Table with weather forecasts for various regions: EAST COAST, WEST COAST, SOUTH COAST, ENGLAND AND WALES, SCOTLAND, IRELAND.

Abroad

Table with weather forecasts for various countries: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Czech Rep, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Korea, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, USA, USSR, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire.